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1945

Hindu Mahasabha, Socialists, Nationalist Muslims, Kisan Sabhas, Elections, etc.

INDIAN SHIPPING

Journal of the
National Steamship Owners' Association
Scindia House, Ballard Estate
BOMBAY

1945

Newspaper Cuttings Re:
Hindu Mahasabha Congress Socialists,
Communists Nationalist Muslims Organisations,
Azad Sabha & Elections — 1945

HLS/31
Kumari Maniben Vallabhai Patel.
'Navajiwan',
AHMEDABAD 14.

CENTRAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Sunday Times 16-11-45

Polling Stations In Bombay

The Collector of Bombay has fixed the polling stations for the elections to the Central Legislative Assembly from the Bombay City Non-Muhammadan and Muhammadan constituencies to be held respectively, on November 26 and 27.

The number of Non-Muhammadan voters in the A Ward of the Bombay Municipality being too large, polling will be at three different stations. At the Law College, Non-Muhammadan voters whose names begin with the letters 'A' to 'G' (Nos. 1 to 6643 in the Electoral Roll) will vote. At Elphinstone College Non-Muhammadan voters whose names begin with the letters 'H' to 'N' (Nos. 6644 to 12646 in the Electoral Roll) will vote. At the Anjuman-i-Islam High School, the rest of the Non-Muhammadan voters whose names begin with the letters 'O' to 'Z' (Nos. 12647 to 19217) will vote.

The polling hours for all constituencies and wards are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Indian Standard Time. The polling stations are:

NON-MUHAMMADAN CONSTITUENCY

WARD A—Law College (Near Churchgate Station); Elphinstone College (Near Prince of Wales Museum); Anjuman-i-Islam High School (Near Victoria Terminus Station).

WARD B—'Daryasthan' Daryasthan Lane, Mandvi.

WARD C—'Madhav Baug', C. P. Tank.

WARD D—'Gilder Tank', (Municipal School Compound), Lamington Road.

WARD E—Antonio de Souza . High School, Byculla.

WARD F—King George English School, Matunga.

WARD G—Dr. Antonio da Silva High School, Dadar.

MUHAMMADAN CONSTITUENCY

WARD A—Anjuman-i-Islam High School, Hornby Road, Near Victoria Terminus.

WARDS B and C—Anjuman-i-Islam High School, Hornby Road, Near Victoria Terminus.

WARD D—'Gilder Tank' (Municipal School Compound), Lamington Road.

WARD E—Antonio de Souza School, Byculla.

WARDS F and G—Antonio da Silva High School, Dadar.

INDIAN POLITICAL NOTES

Protest Against British Policy

By "CANDIDUS"

POLLING for the Central Assembly is in progress in several parts of the country. It has already taken place in Assam, the Punjab and the C. P. Voting in Bombay, Bihar and the U.P. is going on. Orissa will go to the polls on Thursday and Madras and Sind on Saturday. The Frontier elections will take place next week and those in Bengal the week after. Results will start pouring in next week, and by the middle of December most of the results will be known. The outcome of the Bengal voting may not be available till the last week of December; but the general party position will be known two or three weeks from now.

It is only after the completion of polling for the Central Assembly that the parties and the electorate will interest themselves in the elections to the provincial legislatures. At present there is hardly any activity in respect of the provincial elections, barring a few preliminary party nominations. Even the dates of the elections have not yet been finally announced in most of the provinces.

STUDENT "SHOWS"

Although the interest evinced by the political parties in the elections to the Central Assembly is inconsiderable, there was some eleventh-hour activity on the eve of polling Even this was somewhat offset by happenings in other theatres. The demonstrations in connection with the I.N.A. trials claimed public attention in the latter half of last week, even to the exclusion of election-eve activity. These demonstrations are comparatively trivial, and it is extremely unfortunate that they should have developed into a major issue. Trouble occurred in Madura, Lucknow, Lahore and other cities, with its worst and most tragic manifestation in Calcutta towards the week-end. Widespread resentment prevails in India at the manner of official and police attitude to student demonstrators which it is contended has led to avoidable bloodshed and the creation of an unhealthy atmosphere.

This is all the more unfortunate when account is taken of the fact that neither the Government nor the political parties desire a clash on the eve of or during the election. Authoritative official spokesmen have repeatedly made it clear that they wish the election conducted in a calm, free and dispassionate atmosphere. Leaders of both the Congress and the League wish the same. A League leader of Calcutta exhorted Muslim students to stay aloof from the demonstrations, while Congress leaders have been urging the students to avoid clashes with the police on minor issues and generally to conduct themselves in a disciplined manner.

TALK OF STRUGGLE

Meanwhile there is no doubt that the Congress itself is by no means regarding the election as an end in itself. The Working Committee's and the A.-I.C.C.'s resolutions describe the general election as a means of demonstrating the country's support for the "Quit India" demand. Participation in the election, it is claimed, was decided on in order to prove this claim and to prevent "reactionaries and loafies" from seizing key positions. Front rank Congress leaders like Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel, Pandit Nehru, Mr. J. B. Kirpalani and Dr. Rajendra Prasad have not missed a single opportunity to emphasise that the Congress does not attach undue importance to the election and that the country's freedom could be won only by another struggle outside the legislatures and that such a struggle was actually round the corner.

Statements like these were evidently responsible for the appeal made by Lord Strabolgi to "Pandit Nehru to be patient for a few more months. Left-wingers in the Labour Party are naturally anxious that Indian leadership should do nothing to precipitate a crisis prematurely and thereby spoil the chances of the Labour Government doing good for India. Communists, back-benchers and doctrinaire politicians like Prof. Harold Laski seem to share this view.

The interest aroused in Indian political circles by the speeches and statements of these left-wing British politicians in the past few days has been heightened by the prospect of an early statement of policy towards India. The announcement that there would soon be an official announcement on India has created a measure of speculation and lent colour to the rumour, circulated by a foreign news agency, that, contrary to the earlier policy, the Labour Government might not hang everything on the general election. However, it is best to await the statement.

SUSPICION

Considerable attention has been paid in India to the recent speeches of Mr. Attlee, Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Prof. Laski, Lord Strabolgi and Prof. Catlin. While there is an undoubted tendency to respond to the appeals of British friends, there is a marked expression of suspicion concerning the Labour Government's intentions towards this country. The *Hindu*, for instance, affirms that "the so-called 'electoral revolution' in Britain has made no change whatever in the attitude whether of the ruling class or of the proletariat in that country towards India; the one is as selfish and short-sighted and other as ignorant and apathetic as ever. In these circumstances, Britishers who are genuinely friendly to India should realise that something more is required of them than exclamations of pained surprise if they encounter what they consider to be quite unaccountable exhibitions of hostility and ill-will in this country. . .When Lord Strabolgi and others tell us that Hindus and Muslims have only to join and Britain will grant everything they ask for, the memory of numerous disappointments inevitably prompts the suspicion that there may be many unspoken reservations. The only way to overcome it is for the British Government to fulfil its obligations forthwith and not merely to talk of them hopefully."

"AWAIT RESULTS"

The *Hindustan Times* refers to the "wicked attempt to re-impose the Dutch and the French rule on Indonesia and Indo-China" and contends that "the Indian people can hardly believe that these activities are a prelude to voluntary relinquishment of British rule in this country".

On the other hand, *Dawn* deplores that "some of the Labour intellectuals are anticipating post-election prospects by suggesting various constitutional recipes for India's political ills" and asks, "Does it not mean undue interference with elections?" The League journal poses the significant question: "What are his (Prof. Catlin's) reasons to believe that the Muslim demand of Pakistan will necessarily lead to disruption?" and proceeds. Does he not know that the whole pattern of India's constitutional history is communal to the core? What are the basis of separate electorates, Communal Award and two Wavell Plans? . . .The Anglo-American type of democracy presupposes a national homogeneity which is not found in India. The British democrats are gravely mistaken if they think that their own form of Government is applicable to all countries—whether it be the land of Shinto or a heterogeneous sub-continent like India. . . The British Labour Government and its spokesman must await the results of the general election before they commit themselves to any plans regarding the formation of the constitution-making body."

THE TIMES OF INDIA

28-11-46

UGLY SITUATION IN AGRA SAVED

Election Scenes

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

AGRA, November 28: Polling here yesterday nearly created a serious communal riot but timely police action saved the situation. The Agra College polling station was subjected to a shower of brickbats from students. It is said the League flag was hoisted on the college gate and Hindu students recruited and shouted down League voters. An altercation ensued and brick bats were exchanged, creating panic and the bazars were closed. Section 144 was promulgated and "goondas" were arrested. The situation was normal on Wednesday.

Bijapur: Bijapur Muslims went to the polls on Tuesday to record their votes to the Central Assembly seat from the Bombay Southern Dvision Muslim constituency. It is gathered that in all, 110 votes were registered in the District, the total strength being 187. Mr. Ahmed Jaffer (Muslim League) is believed to have secured 80 per cent. of the votes while his opponent, Mr. H. A. Lalljee, got about 20 per cent.

Ratnagiri: Monday's polling for the Central Assembly seat from the Bombay Southern Non-Muhammadan constituency began here as well as at 68 polling booths all over the District. At Ratnagiri, 55 per cent. of the voters registered their votes and reports from other tahikas show that the percentage at other booths was a bit higher. Since the Hindu Mahasabha has a decidedly better hold in this district, Dewan Bahadur Jagtap is said to be on the whole leading throughout the district except Malwan Taluka and Venguria Peta where the voters are reported to have supported the Congress candidate, Mr. Karmarkar. Polling for the Muslim seat was brisk all over the district and Mr Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffar (Muslim League) is reported to have been well supported.

The final date of enrolment of primary members of the Congress in Bombay city has now been extended to December 15.

INTERFERENCE IN ELECTIONS

Punjab League Charges

LAHORE, November 28: To safeguard against the alleged malpractices in the Province and interference in the elections and to secure a fair contest in the elections, the Punjab Provincial Muslim League Parliamentary Board has resolved to request Mr. Jinnah to send the Central Parliamentary Board to Punjab a week before the elections to note the alleged malpractices. The Board also stresses the need for a non-official committee to remain in Punjab during the elections and to investigate cases of interference. A resolution to observe December 7 as a day of protest was also passed.—*A.P.I.*

PUNJAB CONGRESS & ELECTIONS

Parliamentary Board Hitch

LAHORE, November 27: A meeting of the Punjab Congress Parliamentary Board came to an abrupt end yesterday afternoon. It had been scheduled to last for a week, but the two groups in the Punjab Congress could not agree on the list of candidates for special constituencies, which was first question on the agenda for consideration.

In the end it was decided that both the groups should hand over the respective list of candidates to Maulana Daud Ghaznavi, President, who would forward them to the Central Parliamentary Board with his own opinion as the merits of each candidate.

Dr. Gopichand is leaving for Bombay in regard to this issue, and Maulana Daud Ghaznavi, President of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, is leaving for Calcutta.—*U.P.I.*

DEWAN CHAMANLAL

Candidate For Punjab Assembly Election

LAHORE, November 27: At a press conference yesterday evening, Dewan Chamanlal, who was recently returned unopposed to the Central Assembly from the Lahore general constituency on the Congress ticket, revealed that he was seeking election to the Provincial Assembly. If he was returned to the Punjab Assembly, he said, he would resign from the Centre.—U.P.I.

Tribune — 17-11-45

Sind Sabha Candidates

KARACHI, November 16: The Selection Board of the Sind Provincial Hindu Mahasabha has rejected the application of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai who wanted to contest the general elections to the Sind Assembly from the Larkana Constituency. The Sabha has nominated Rao Sahib Gokaldas Mewaldas, former Hindu Minister, to contest the Larkana seat and oppose the Congress candidate. The Sabha has also nominated Dr. Hemandas Wadhwani from the Jacobabad Constituency.

A very keen contest is expected between the Hindu Mahasabha and the Congress at Sukkur, where both the parties have intensified their election campaigns.—*A. P. I.*

What Really Happened--IX

NEW CAMPAIGN AN ELECTION STUNT

LEAGUE FRIGHTENED BY NATIONALISTS' ACTIVITY

Hindustan Times

By Dr K. N. Katju 30-11-45

(Former Minister of Justice in U.P.)

REPUBLICATION of the Pirpur Report at this juncture is quite obviously an election stunt and the object is not only to cause dissensions between the Hindus and Muslims; it seems to me that it is primarily directed against those Nationalist Muslims who are now determined to rescue their great community from the pit of communal fanaticism into which the Muslim League desires to push it for its own political advantage.

The Congress is fighting against the supremacy of the white races on the Asia-wide slogan "Quit Asia." The Congress is fighting not only for the independence of India, but for the independence of all Asiatic countries now under the heels of Western imperialist Powers

"KAFIRS CAN'T RULE"

As for the Muslim League, Mr Jinnah is staking his political future on the issue of Pakistan. Every vote cast for the Congress, he says, is a vote for serfdom and slavery to the Hindus. And it is his evidence relevant to this issue that wild allegations in the Pirpur Report are now being spread among the Muslim masses.

No attempt is made to explain the advantages of Pakistan to the Muslims of non-Pakistan areas for the very simple reason that none exist. There is only one method adopted and no other, and that is of appealing to the lowest and basest instincts of humanity in the great name of religion.

Those who have attended election meetings addressed by prominent League leaders such as Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan and Nawab Ismail Khan have told me that the burden of the tirades usually is that the Hindus are *kafirs* "and how can *kafirs* be allowed to rule over Muslims?"

LEAGUE FEARS

The Muslim League is, at present, controlled by capitalists, landed proprietors and other vested interests. The recent activities of the Nationalist Muslims for enlightened political education of the Muslim masses has caused serious misgivings in the League ranks, and hence this frantic anxiety to divert attention from real issues and mislead and inflame the mass mind by false and exaggerated stories of occurrences of seven years ago, as if from 1940 onwards there has been complete peace and amity in the land and the Muslims have had no cause whatsoever for complaint.

THE PIRPUR REPORT WAS COMPILED AS A PART OF THE SLANDEROUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CONGRESS TOWARDS, I BELIEVE, THE END OF 1939. WHEN THE MINISTRIES LEFT OFFICE THE MUSLIM LEAGUE CELEBRATED A "DAY OF DELIVERANCE." IN THOSE DAYS THE LEAGUE WAS THE PROTEGE OF THE BRITISH BUREAUCRACY. MR AMERY WAS THE FOSTER-FATHER OF THE LEAGUE AND THEREFORE EVERYTHING AGAINST THE CONGRESS SERVED THE IMPERIALIST PURPOSE.

Now again the need has arisen—the need for an attempt to inject poison in the mass mind, and hence these stories. I have already dealt with most of them. A few others remain of the same kind, equally baseless and equally flimsy. If it were intended to compile a mere calendar of crimes in which the Hindus figured against the Muslims and vice versa that would not be a difficult task. In the annals of the administration of criminal justice in the United Provinces such instances could always be found, but the underlying cause is not religion. It is something else. It is either oppression of the Muslim zamindar over his tenants or the Shylockean attitude of a Hindu moneylender against his Muslim debtors and often a woman plays a leading part in the story. Causes are so diverse.

MOTIVES NOT DIVULGED

In the Pirpur Report, however, the cause is generally not stated. It is just a bald statement of alleged crimes and nothing more. For instance, we have the story of a crime in which two Muslim families were involved. The narrative runs thus: "Only two Muslim families lived in the midst of about 200 Hindu families. One Muslim family was poor while the other was prosperous. The head of the prosperous Muslim family was a big merchant and landowner. At mid-night this man was murdered while sleeping in his house. The police made an inquiry and chalaaned and prosecuted the President of the Local Congress and several others on charges of manslaughter. The accused were released on bail. This release was followed by a new and still graver plot to wipe out the entire family of the poor Muslim victims" and then follow harrowing details of a massacre.

What happened afterwards we are not told. Murders of so many people could not have gone unavestigated. There must have been some trials. But that is no concern of the narrator.

What the Congress Ministry had to do with it is not explained. What was the motive behind the crime is equally obscure. I suggest that a publication of a story like this can only be attributed to a wicked desire to disturb communal harmony.

THE HOLI INCIDENTS

A similar colouring is given to another disturbance which owed its origin apparently to rivalry between landlords of adjoining markets in a rural area. This is described as a "holocaust" (a favourite word) in Sitapur district. We have Congress leaders among the looters and 'Gandhiji ki Jai' as the battle cry. Here again, no reference is made to the judicial decision, if any.

Over and over again Holi is mentioned as an occasion when Hindus seem bent upon insulting their Muslim brethren and their religion. I am amazed to read such over-drawn pictures because I remember scenes where out of sheer loving friendliness Muslim friends have participated in the Holi festival. I do not deny that every year on the occasion of Holi in some obscure place or another in the province there may be some friction arising out of slight annovance caused to someone by sprinkling of coloured water. But such isolated instances are magnified out of all proportion.

SUITS OVER CIVIC RIGHTS

It will be a sheer waste of time and I may be tiring the patience of my readers if I were to take and discuss each of the instances mentioned in the Report separately. Of some I have knowledge; of others not. But speaking generally, even in order to apportion blame, a reference to judicial records is a far more satisfactory process than reliance upon the so-called statements made to officials of the Muslim League branches in the various districts.

There is, however, one matter of some general importance. Cow-sacrifice and taking processions on public streets is a civic right of the people. There are frequent suits in civil courts for declaration and enforcement of such rights. Usually the defence is based upon the existing usage and these are pleaded in answer to the claim. Sometimes the defence is defeated and the right is negatived. Where it does not succeed the civil court declares the right and grants a decree.

But the decree is always subject to the right of the executive authorities to take such steps and pass such administrative orders as they may think fit in the interests of law and order and to maintain the public peace. Such orders are generally passed by magistrates or the police authorities on every occasion when there is likelihood of a communal clash. Sometimes they purport to restrain cow-sacrifices. Sometimes they regulate public processions, particularly in regard to routes and timings. Sometimes these orders are reasonable, on other occasions very harsh and unreasonable. It depends upon the individual officer and his predilections.

WHY BLAME CONGRESS

I am led to make these general observations because of a reference to a particular case in Gorakhpur where it was said that cow-sacrifice was prohibited and many Muslims, including two M.L.A.s, elected to go to jail (I believe for a day or two only). That has nothing to do with the Congress. It was as a protest against the magistrate's order who prohibited cow-sacrifice because the site proposed was close to an ancient temple. Blame the magistrate. Why blame the Congress for it?

But I must end this discussion again with the oft-repeated question. How does it solve the question? How does Pakistan help Muslims inhabiting the United Provinces to live a fuller, richer life? How does it relieve poverty and wretchedness? How does it promote a sense of security for life and property, or peace and harmony in the land? It does not, and I say definitely that the Muslim League know it. It does not suit their purpose. In disunity between the two great sister communities lies their strength, in unity and harmony lies the League's destruction. Hence these crocodile tears.

(To be continued)

14.10.45 THE DAILY GA

How Congress Will Pick Its Members

DR. CHOITHRAM ON ELECTIONS

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD (Sind), Oct. 14.—Dr. Choithram P. Gidwani has issued the following statement: "The Congress Candidates Selection Committee has been considering the principles which should guide it in making a selection of candidates from amongst the large number whose applications have been received by the Sind Provincial Congress Committee. Having laid down these principles they have considered these principles as applied to the actual conditions of each constituency even where only one candidate has applied. No principle has been regarded as singly and separately in determining the Committee's decision in regard to any constituency.

"The Committee has given weight to all principles but not the total effect of these principles has been taken into account. The Committee has tried its best and in its future decisions also will try its best to act as carefully and judicially as possible. The Committee has made best efforts to act correctly in the interests of the Congress and the good of the electorate.

"It may be, however, that any particular decision of the Committee may not appeal to the judgment of some candidates or section of the general public of the constituency concerned. No decision, under the circumstances, can receive universal approval! The Committee hopes and trusts that Congress and the general public will dispite, divergent views, if any, on the decisions of the Committee, will now give them fullest support to these decisions and create a favourable atmosphere for the success of the Congress.

"The Committee regrets the delay that is taking place in announcing decisions on the various constituencies but hopes that it will be appreciated that the delay is caused only by the necessity to come to sound decisions after the study of all aspects of the question.

"The Committee has considered fully the applications received for the Central Assembly seat and interviewed all the applicants as required by the Central Parliamentary Board and forwarded applications to the Board with its report on them for the decision of the Board. The principles the Committee has so far laid down for its guidance are (1) the degree of participation by a candidate in day-to-day activities of the Congress (2) the depth of personal convictions for the policy and principles of the Congress (3) the natural tendency and availability of time and leisure for meeting freely people who have complaints and grievances and working for their redress (4) the chances of success against likely opposing candidates (5) effect of the selection of a particular candidate in one constituency on the chances of success of candidates in other constituency (6) the extent to which funds and propagandists and workers from outside the constituency will be needed.

"Besides considering and reporting on applications for the Central Assembly, the Central Committee has dealt with four provincial constituencies and recommended the following candidates: Professor Ghanshyam (Hyderabad suburban constituency); Mr. Valecha (Sukkar City); Miss Jethi Sipahimalani (Women's constituency) and Mr. Nevandram Vishindas (Nawabshah North).

"Some other constituencies have been partly studied and decisions in regard to them are under consideration. The Committee will visit Upper Sind constituencies to study the situation on the spot and return to Hyderabad for considering the data gathered and coming to a decision. The subsequent programme will be decided thereafter.

"The Committee is anxious to complete its arduous task soon but some delay is unavoidable in the circumstances existing and the Committee pleads for patience from all quarters. The Committee trust that all Congressmen and all voters, men and women and the general public will extend to the Congress their fullest support, will merge all group and sectional feelings in one general national urge for freedom and the good of the people, and rise as one man to give unprecedented success to the Congress at this momentous juncture in our national history."

MADRAS CONGRESS NOMINEES

Hindu Press 17-10-45

Joint Meeting Of Three Boards

MADRAS, Oct. 16.

The joint session of the Andhra, Tamil Nad and Kerala Congress Parliamentary Boards held sittings on October 15 and 16 to scrutinise the applications received from intending candidates for the Central Assembly elections from the Madras City, Commerce and Landholders' Constituencies.

This meeting selected the Congress nominees for these seats and resolved to send its recommendations to the Central Parliamentary Board along with other applications received for the same seats.

The Tamil Nad and the Andhra Congress Parliamentary Sub-Committees have also sent their recommendations for the constituencies within their province separately to the Central Parliamentary Board.

Although the Committee's recommendations have not yet been disclosed to the Press, it is understood that as the result of joint deliberation, they have recommended the following names:

Madras City Non-Muhammedan Urban—Mr. Guntur Narasimha Rao.

Madras Indian Commerce—Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar.

Madras Landholders—Mr. M. K. Jinachandran.

The Parliamentary Sub-Committee of the Tamilnad Congress Working Committee after their final meeting, it is understood, have recommended the following candidates to be set up on Congress ticket for election to the Central Assembly from Tamilnad:

Salem-Coimbatore cum North Arcot —Mrs. Radhabai Subbroyan.

South Arcot cum Chingleput—Mr. Omandur Ramaswami Reddiar.

Tanjore cum Trichinopoly—Mr. T. V. Sadagopalachari.

Madura and Ramnad cum Tinnevelly—Mr. S. T. Adithan.

POLLING ON DEC. 1

For the election of one member each from Madras Landholders Constituency and Madras European Constituency to the Indian Legislative Assembly the Chief Secretary to Government who is the returning officer has notified the following dates—

Presentation of nomination paper on or before October 27. Scrutiny October 29. Polling December 1.

NATIONALIST MUSLIMS TO CONTEST

The Nationalist Muslims of Madras at a meeting resolved to put up their candidate for election to the Central Assembly from South Madras-Mahomedan Constituency.

For the other two Muslim constituencies in this Province North Madras Mahomedan and West Coast and Nilgiris—the Nationalist Muslims of Andhra and Kerala have already decided to run their candidates.

"FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS" SLOGAN A MOCKERY & A FARCE

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Free Press — 19-10-45

PRESIDENT AZAD INDICTS BRITAIN'S DUPLICITY

Biswanath Das Disqualified

CALCUTTA, Oct. 18.

BRITISH LABOUR'S SLOGAN "FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS" IN INDIA, FORMULATED PRESUMABLY TO PACIFY WORLD OPINION, SUFFERED THE SEVEREST CRITICISM YET AT THE HANDS OF THE CONGRESS PRESIDENT TODAY.

The President challenged the British Government to sustain their claim of holding free and fair elections while they were detaining several prospective candidates and banning public meetings.

Along with this comes the news that Mr. Biswanath Das, ex-Premier of Orissa has been disqualified from contesting the election; his request for lifting the ban on him has been turned down. Mr. Das revealing this said the Congress in Orissa would not suffer for that and hoped some one else would lead that province.

Another interesting development on the election front is the decision of the Frontier Gandhi not to seek votes for candidates whose sincerity he had reasons to doubt. Apparently Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan is not satisfied with the stature of the Congress workers who are put up for elections.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Congress President, who yesterday protested against the British Government's decision not to declare a general political amnesty in India, today connected the issue with the forthcoming elections, and asked: "How can there be free and fair elections when meetings cannot be held without the sanction of the police and candidates and supporters continue to be confined in jails?"

President Azad said: "The British Premier has more than once said that elections in India would be free and fair. Mr. Henderson, the Under-Secretary of State for India has also recently stated in the House of Commons that there would be no restriction on the right of free speech.' The statement is untenable in the context of the present Indian situation, where bans exist on public meetings even in cities like Calcutta and Dacca, or in districts like Midnapore.

RESTRICTED CHOICE

Besides, large numbers of political prisoners and detenus are still in jail. Among them are many who have been, are, or may be members of the legislatures. To keep them under restraint is to restrict our choice in the selection of candidates and also to deprive us of some of our finest workers during the election campaign.

"How can there be free and fair election when meetings cannot be held without the sanction of the police and candidates and supporters remain confined in jails?"

FIGHTING FORCES

The case of the Indian fighting forces presents another glaring example of restriction on free election. Lord Wavell in paying tributes to their splendid contribution to the victory of the United Nations, declared that their opinions and views must be given due and proper weight at the time of the framing of India's future constitution. He also declared that every facility would be given to them to exercise their vote at the time of the next general election.

It now appears that the military authorities are either unable or unwilling to fulfil those promises, and the reward of the gallantry of India's fighting forces is their virtual disenfranchisement in an election which is bound to influence the future of India. I have received complaints in Bombay Lahore and elsewhere that service personnel entitled to vote are no allowed to exercise their franchis in an unfettered manner.

PERSONNEL ABROAD

As for the franchise of personnel stationed outside India, Mr. Henderson has informed the House of Commons that "practical difficulties are such that it is not possible to overcome them in the time available." All difficulties were overcome for the British general elections, though the war had not yet ended at the time. Even personnel in the forests of Burma were enabled and encouraged to vote. I would, therefore, urge upon the authorities to make the necessary arrangements for enabling the Indian fighting forces to exercise their votes fully and freely as was done in the case of their British comrades.

The authorities must also allow them the opportunity to know the programme and policy of different political parties, so that they can exercise their franchise with discrimination and knowledge. The barriers which now insulate them from Indian public life must go. How otherwise can we call the elections free and fair in face of the virtual disenfranchisement of large numbers of civil and military personnel?"-

BISWANATH DAS DISQUALIFIED

Govt. Turn Down Request

CUTTACK, Oct. 18.

Mr. Biswanath Das, former Premier of Orissa, has received a telegram from the Government of India that they had rejected his application to condone his disqualification from contesting a seat for the Central Assembly.

Revealing this Mr. Das in a statement says:—

"This was found necessary as the elections are held under the Government of India Act 1919. I congratulate both the Central and Provincial Governments for having kept me out of elections and legislatures. Orissa is not lacking in men to fill up my place with ability and dignity, to cause any inconvenience either to the party or to the country."

FRONTIER GANDHI NOT SATISFIED

No Active Work For Election

PESHAWAR, Oct. 18.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan's Secretary, Mr. Mohd Yunus, in a Press statement explains Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan's refusal to the Frontier Provincial Congress Committee's request to select candidates and conduct the forthcoming elections in the Province.

He says: "In his decision to stand aloof from the elections Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan's chief reason is that he is not at all pleased with the manner in which some of the elected members have functioned. And is, therefore, not prepared to seek votes for those who are unworthy of public service. Unless he feels confident of the conduct of his followers, he will not lend them his support.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan has given us a timely warning to choose the best type of men for the coming elections. We in the Frontier know that he is deeply religious, and his idea of human service is very high. But I have no doubt that all those entrusted with the task will succeed in selecting an honest team. This selection will be made in due course and God willing we shall prove to the world once again that the Pathans are wholeheartedly with their beloved leader."—AP.

Nominations to Central Assembly

Leader 9-10-45

(From Our Correspondent)

Nagpur, Oct. 7.—It is understood that so far the provincial Congress has received three applications for nomination to the Central Assembly from Dr. M. R. Cholkar, G. V. Deshmukh (sitting member) and Mr. V. R. Kalappa, secretary, C. P. Assembly Congress party. More are expected. Congress circles here seem to favour Mr. P. K. Salve. The provincial League, it is stated, has recommended the name of Mr. S. W. A. Rizvi of Raipur for the Central Assembly.

SJT. BHULABHAI DESAI'S YEOMAN SERVICES

Bhart Patrika 21-10-45

Plea For Giving Congress Ticket

BOMBAY, Saturday.

Mr. J. C. Setalvad former President Indian Merchants Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Mangaldas Mehta have sent a telegram to Mahatma Gandhi requesting him to persuade the Central Assembly Election Committee to nominate as Congress candidate Mr. Bhulabhai Desai for the forthcoming election.

They say, "Mr. Bhulabhai Desai was a great asset in the fight for freedom, held on the floor of the House, because of his profound knowledge of law and constitutional practice. During his Assembly career he had rendered yeoman service to the commercial community."

INDIAN POLITICAL NOTES

Undesirable Trends In Electioneering

By "CANDIDUS"

LOVERS of peaceful progress will explore the tendency to violence which Indian politics have developed in recent weeks. Political differences have of late come to be expressed in terms of personal insult and violence and instigation to violence. While a measure of warmth is inevitable during electioneering campaigns in a country of the size and population of India, it is regrettable that freedom of opinion and of expression of such opinion should have been met with intolerance and worse. Leaders and organs of public opinion have condemned undesirable outbursts of intolerance, but in some cases the condemnation has been accompanied by a display of the very tendency which has been condemned.

The first instance of violence occurred at a public meeting in Bombay a few weeks ago when Communists and Congressmen came to blows. Another case of attacks on Communist newspaper readers has been reported from Poona. The latest example was provided at Lucknow during the week-end, when a volunteer of the Radical Democratic Party is reported to have been stabbed during a free fight following a speaker's criticism of the Congress. In between there have been numerous cases of personal insults and acts of violence towards those holding the opposite view. These may be listed in order to snow the extremes to which partisans have gone.

ALIGARH INCIDENT

Most people are aware of the unruly demonstrations which greeted Maulana Abul Kalam Azad when he passed through Aligarh railway station on his return to Calcutta from the Simla Conference. Commenting on this a Patna paper writes: "The incident became so notorious as to attract the notice of His Excellency Lord Wavell who sent a dignified note rebuking the conduct of Aligarh University men. This note was addressed to the Vice-Chancellor who expressed regret for the happenings but tried to dissociate the university from any hand or part in the whole proceedings. If this is a sample of what the coming election contests will bring in their wake, it is time for men of goodwill to wean Muslim youth from becoming dupes of wily and self-seeking politicians."

Towards the end of September a serious disturbance occurred at Gaya in a mosque when theologians tried to address a congregation. Some Ulemas were injured and others were bodily removed from the mosque. A newspaper report seeks to father the trouble on the local Muslim League which is said to have distributed leaflets urging Muslims not to attend the congregation "on the ground of political differences." On the same day a public meeting was broken up by rowdies who cut the microphone wires. The secretary of the local Jamait-ul-Ulema was assaulted.

LATHIS & BRICKBATS

A former Parliamentary Secretary of Bihar complains that at a meeting of Nationalist Muslims held a few days ago at Bhagalpore "disturbances were created by Muslim Leaguers and brickbats were thrown," Maulana H. A. Madani, President of the Jamait-ul-Ulema, who paid a visit to Bhagalpore to attend to some election work, could not address a gathering of students, as his place of residence was "surrounded by a batch of Muslim League volunteers and workers armed with *lathis* and brickbats, and it was rendered impossible for the Maulana to stir out of his residence. He was taken out under police escort, but brickbats were thrown and some, including a police officer, were hurt." When the Maulana visited Saidpur he was greeted with "abusive epithets by a batch of Muslims who attacked his car with brickbats and *lathis*, injuring the driver, and attempted to drag the Maulana out."

Referring to a recent Sikh Conference held in the Punjab, *Dawn* reports a Sikh leader as having said: "We Sikhs want the British to quit India and then we shall see how the Muslim League can establish Pakistan. If Pakistan is forced upon us I would advise the Khalsa to pull out their sword from the scabbard and use it in the struggle against Pakistan."

LEAGUE RETORT

Condemning these "highly provocative utterances", *Dawn* writes:

"If such open threats are intended to strike terror into Muslims and make them give up their demand for Pakistan, they will miserably fail in their object. The sword is a weapon to which the Muslim is not altogether a stranger, nor has Muslim youth been brought up on goat's milk in spite of all the schemings of Wardha. The Muslims are lovers of peace, which is indeed of the very essence of their religion; but their history both in this country and abroad does not lack examples when they have given a pretty good account of themselves in other than the paths of peace when compelled by necessity. Should the need arise they would not be averse to letting that history repeat itself although it may not be of their voluntary seeking."

Quoting immoderate language on the part of certain League speakers in excuse, a pro-Congress newspaper of Patna goes to similar extremes:

"We should like Mr. Syed Hussain Imam (a Bihar League leader) and others of his ilk to pause and beware. This policy of brazen-faced incitement to violence is apt in the very nature of things to exceed the bounds. Once the spirit of hooliganism is abroad, no-one can foretell where it will end. Tension is in the air..... India represents today combustible material but too ready for the match that will let loose a conflagration.....Let them (leaders of the League) not, however, presume too much on the indulgence of their fellow-countrymen who will not allow, come what may and will, the disruption of their country for the gratification of communal conceit. If there is any idea lurking anywhere in any section of the Muslim League that they can browbeat, bully and stampede the country into Pakistan by hooliganism and violence, the sooner the delusion vanished the better for the peaceful existence of all concerned."

LEADERS' DUTY

Critics have pointed their accusing finger at an intemperate speech made during the week-end by Pandit Nehru who told a Lucknow audience that the Congress would prepare a "list of anti-national criminals who mercilessly tortured our patriots, opened fire on the people, accepted bribes and sucked the blood of the poor." Apart from the threat to the police and the services, this has been resented by some non-Congressmen who fear it is directed against those belonging to parties and groups opposed to the Congress. A Muslim League spokesman says: "They (Congress leaders) now wish to treat those who belong to institutions opposed to the Congress chiefly Muslim Leaguers, as war criminals. Muslims cannot take such a challenge lying down."

The foregoing reports and comments must be sufficient to illustrate the point made at the beginning of this article that unhealthy forces are vitiating the electioneering atmosphere. And there are quite a few months to go before the last provincial election is held. Unless the country's leadership makes a positive effort to rid the atmosphere of the spirit of violence the history of the next few months will be far from pleasant. The Indian press, too, has an important part to play in keeping politics and electioneering on a high level. In demanding a dignified standard of public life, the newspapers will do well to avoid the temptation of picking stray remarks of offending leaders or journals out of their context and investing them with more sinister import than was meant by their author.

BAN ON EX-PREMIER TO CONTINUE

Biswanath Cannot Contest Election

(From Our Correspondent)

NEW DELHI, Oct. 10.

It is understood that the application of Mr. Biswanath Das, ex-Premier of Orissa for removing the ban imposed on him during his imprisonment by the Orissa Government, disqualifying him for standing in the Election either to the Provincial or Central Legislatures has been turned down by the Governor-General.

Mr. Das has been nomnated by the Congress to contest the forthcoming election to the Central Legislature from Ganjam in the Vizagapatam constituency.

Punjab MLA Without Franchise

NEW DELHI, Oct. 10.

In reply to his application, made last month, asking for the inclusion of his name in the Central Assembly voters' list, Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta, sitting member of the Punjab Assembly, has received a letter from the Election's Commissioner, Punjab, saying: "It is practically impossible to amend the roll in question at this stage."—A.P.I.

JUSTICITE TO CONTEST CENTRAL ASSEMBLY SEAT

MADRAS, Oct. 10 (A.P.I.): The Justice Party Parliamentary Board met to-night and decided to adopt Mr. P. Balasubramania Mudaliar, Editor, "Sunday Observer", as a party candidate to contest the Central Assembly election from the Madras City Constitutency.

PUNJAB ELECTION PROSPECTS

A Review Of Party Positions

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE political atmosphere in the Punjab is becoming steadily surcharged with election cries. Special significance attaches to the elections to the Punjab legislature in view of the consideration that the Punjab is a key province, in the sense that it is regarded as the cornerstone of the Pakistan edifice which Mr. Jinnah is anxious to erect. The result of the elections in this province is therefore, likely to be interpreted as a vote in favour of or against Pakistan, particularly the result of the voting in Muslim constituencies, although it is not a very correct or justifiable evaluation, because a general election is not a plebiscite on a specific issue. It is more than proable that a number of extraneous factors, besides the merits or demerits of Pakistan, will enter into the electors' calculation, Nevertheless, in a general way the results of the coming election may be held to reflect the trend of public opinion on the Pakistan issue.

VITAL BEARING

If the voting in Muslim constituencies will have a vital bearing on the all-India issue of self-determination and Pakistan, it will also determine the fortunes of the principal Muslim parties, the Muslim League, the Unionist Party, and the Nationalist and Congress Muslim groups. The Unionist Party is a predominantly Muslim party, though its composition in the legislature at present is non-communal in the sense that some Hindus and Sikhs and scheduled caste members also own allegiance to the Unionist Ministry. On the Pakistan issue the dividing line between League and Unionist Muslims is probably very thin. The main difference is that, while the League Muslim is a perfervid and vociferous advocate of the ideal of a separate Muslim state the Unionist Muslim, at least afte the Jinnah-Khizr break in April, 1944, has remained rather quiescent on the issue. One point on which the Unionist Muslim insists, however, is that the Punjab should remain an integral whole and that its present territorial boundaries as a province must remain undisturbed whether it becomes a part of Pakistan or continues as at present as a part of India. This feeling is widely prevalent among all sections of the Punjab population, whether they be Muslims or Sikhs or Hindus, because a break-up of the present provincial boundaries is distinctly disadvantageous to each one of these communities though from different standpoints.

It may be profitable in this connection to study the party position in the present Punjab legislature which is unicameral. The total strength of the Punjab Assembly is 175, of which 84 are Muslim seats, 42 are general seats (ex Hindus, including 8 for Scheduled Castes), 31 Sikh seats, 5 landlord seats; the remaining 13 are distributed among special interests: women, 4; Indian Christian, 2; Commerce and Industry, 1; Labour, 3; University, 1; European 1; and Anglo-Indian, 1.

LAST ELECTIONS

In the last general elections, held in 1936, the Unionist Party, which was then a homogeneous party of Muslims and Hindus, came in with an overwhelming majority, having secured 96 seats out of 175, while Congress had 18 persons returned exclusively on its ticket; the Khalsa Election Board had a strength of 11 members, Independents 19, Akalis 10, Khalsa National Board 14, Muslim League one, Ahrars 2, and other miscellaneous groups the remaining 5. There was originally only a solitary Muslim Leaguer returned on the League ticket in the last elections, while the Congress had two Muslim members on its ticket.

In recent years, however, many crossings of the floor took place. While the Akali group joined hands with the Congress group, Unionist Muslims became members of the Muslim League under the terms of the Jinnah-Sikander Pact. Subsequent to the Jinnah-Khizr break, a group of Muslim Leaguers seceded from the Unionist Party and constituted themselves into a separate parliamentary group.

As far as it is possible to ascertain, the present position of parties in the Punjab Assembly is as follows: Unionist Party 78 (63 Muslims and 15 Hindus); Congress 26 (19 Hindus, 5 Sikhs and two Muslims); Muslim League 23 (all Muslims); Independent group 7 (5 Hindus and two Sikhs); unattached members, who generally vote with the ministry, 27 (10 Hindus, 16 Sikhs and one Muslim); and floating elements 14.

In the light of the failure of the recent efforts to bring about a truce between Leaguers and Unionists, it is more than likely that there will be keen contests between them in the Muslim rural constituencies, the Congress-cum-nationalist Muslims jogging along as a bad third.

LEAGUE PROSPECTS

In the rural areas, the Unionist Party has a distinct advantage from two standpoints. In the first place, it has the advantage of being the party in power now; and, in the second place, it can bank on some of the economic benefits it has secured to the rural population in the shape of a series of land and debt legislation measures which were passed by the Unionist ministry during the last seven and a half years. It also expects to secure the votes of most of the demobilised soldiers and ex-servicemen, for whose benefit it has formulated some schemes as part of the post-war reconstruction plan of the Punjab Government. Granting, however, that the communal mass appeal of the Muslim League will prove more alluring to the Muslim electorates than the concrete benefits of Unionist land legislation, it is possible that the League Party will win about 40 general Muslim seats besides two or three special seats like landlords' and women's, and thus improve its present parliamentary party strength by about 20. It is not, however, expected to have a majority in the Assembly, nor even to become the single largest group. Its chances of forming a ministry in its own right are, therefore, calculated to be very little; and it is problematical, too, if, so long as its creed is one of division of India and establishment of Pakistan, any other considerable group of Hindus or Sikhs will be prepared to enter into a coalition with it. The Unionist Party, from all that one can see from present trends, will continue to be the largest single party in the new Assembly, though with a considerably diminished membership.

HINDUS AND SIKHS

The position of the Hindu and Sikh communities is complicated by the fact that the allegiances of these two communities are divided among the principal political organisations. The Congress, the Hindu Mahasabha and the Unionist Party, each of them claims the support of some section of Hindu opinion. The Hindu Mahasabha's organisational efficiency and election machinery have still to be perfected and much depends on how far the Hindu Election Board, recently constituted, can make up the leeway.

Coming to the Sikh constituencies, the position has changed considerably since the last elections. At that time, the Akali-Congress combination was arrayed against the Khalsa National Board. While the former annexed ten Sikh seats, the latter secured 14 of them. Now the Congress-Akali combination no longer holds good. The Sikh Panthic propaganda for Sikh unity has produced an overwhelming volume of support to the Panth. The Panth is dominated by the Akali party, which by its prominence is in a position of particular advantage over other Sikh groups. Master Tara Singh, who holds an almost undisputed position as the leader of the Akali Sikhs, has made it clear that the Akali Party would contest every Sikh seat on its own independent ticket and with its slogans of "Sikh Unity" and "No Pakistan".

Therefore one comes to the conclusion that in the coming general elections no single political party will be able to secure anything like a clear majority over all the other parties in the Punjab Assembly. There will be a division in the Muslim representation in the assembly.

A number of post-election alignments and readjustment of parties will necessarily take place, as they did after the last elections, when the question of ministry-formation arises, but their shape cannot be precisely envisaged at this distance of time. Of one thing, however, most political observers are certain, namely, that the Punjab Assembly election results will not by any means lend themselves to the interpretation that the Punjab is for-out-right division of the country and that, if the League persists in its uncompromising advocacy of the two-nation theory, those who are returned on the League ticket will find themselves in an isolated group.

VOTE FOR CONGRESS: VOTE FOR FREEDOM

Free Press 9-10-45

CALL FOR PATHANS

PESHAWAR, Oct. 7.

"The Pathan is by nature born free and prefers death to a life of serf. dom. There is no doubt in my mind that he will wholeheartedly align himself with a dynamic and self. respecting organisation like the Indian National Congress."

With these remarks Khan Ali Gul Khan, the President of the N. W. F. Provincial Congress Committee, made an appeal to all freedom loving Pathans to support the Congress in the forthcoming general elections in an interview to the "United Press of India."

Continuing, he said that the occasion for a real test for the Pathans has arrived and they would be required to distinguish between truth and falsehood.

"To vote for the Congress is to vote for India's freedom I, therefore, take the opportunity of issuing a fervent appeal to the people, irrespective of class or creed, to reserve their votes for the Congress, the only revolutionary body which has been relentlessly waging the war for independence right from its inception against imperialism and never hesitated to render any kind of sacrifice on the altar of the goddess of Freedom and Democracy," he added.—U.P.I.

Congress Board's Office Opened In Bombay

POONA, Sept. 30.

THE Congress Central Election Board has opened its office today at Bombay in the Congress House of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee. Sjt. Shantilal Shah, M.L.A. (Bombay) has been appointed Office Secretary by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

A circular letter addressed to all the Provincial Congress Committees has already been issued by Sardar Patel asking them to submit their proposals for nomination of candidates for the Central Assembly so as to reach him a fortnight prior to the date fixed for nomination by the Government.

SHILLONG: A Central Enrolment Committee with representatives from different organisations in Shillong was formed at a meeting held under the auspices of the Shillong District Congress Committee. The Committee will take up the work of enrolment of voters in different constituencies of the Assam Legislative Assembly in the Khasi and Jaiti Hills. The number of organisations represented is more than 25, and from each organisation four representatives were taken on the Committee.

Sub-committees were formed on a regional basis to secure the enlistment of qualified voters on the electoral rolls before October 29, the last date for enrolment.

FRONTIER CONGRESS AND ELECTIONS

Gaffar Khan Gives Advice

PESHAWAR, Sept. 30.

A meeting of the Congress Parliamentary party held this evening lasted for about three hours. All members of the party were present. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan who attended by special invitation addressed the meeting for about one hour giving his impressions and reaction about the Congress Working Committee and the All-India Congress Committee.

At the end of the meeting, Rai Bahadur Merichand Khanna, Secretary of the party, told the Press that the food question was the main item discussed in the meeting.

The Provincial Government he said was requested to try to increase the quota of cloth and sugar and arrange for fair and equitable distribution. The rest of the discussion was held in camera. It is, however, believed that the present Congress position with regard to the coming election was reviewed and members from different districts gave their impressions.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan is believed to have explained the principle and outlines on which the coming elections would be fought in N.-W.F.P. Khan Ali Gul Khan, President of the Provincial Congress, also attended the meeting.—A.P.

NO WALK-OVER FOR LEAGUE IN BIHAR

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

PATNA, Sept. 29.

It appears that even in Bihar which the Leaguers consider their stronghold they cannot expect to have easy success in the forthcoming elections. Preparations are, it is understood, afoot to contest all the Muslim seats by non-Leaguers and to offer as stiff an opposition as possible to the League candidates.

A consolidated move in this direction is likely to be decided when Momins and Independent Muslims meet at Monghyr on October 7. The seriously by the Momins as well at their meeting, scheduled to be held on October 1.

TRIAL OF STRENGTH IN THE PUNJAB

Free Press 5-10-45

ELECTION PROSPECTS OF VARIOUS PARTIES

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

MAULANA AZAD has started the election campaign of the Congress in the Punjab. He has already discussed the matter with Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, Sardar Pratap Singh, General Secretary Punjab Congress Committee and other leaders of the various groups among the Punjab Congress members. It is understood that the Parliamentary Board will nominate more than one twentyfive candidates belonging to all communities. While every Hindu seat will be contested by the Congress, some gentleman's agreement may be evolved for Sikh and Muslim seats with the Akali Party and the non-Congress Muslims respectively. The Akalis have already offered at least two seats to the Congress, while their own candidates' would support the Congress in all matters. Though this offer which was made through Hon. Sardar Baldev Singh Minister for Development, who went to Bombay specially for this purpose, was rejected by the Congress High Command, Akalis still hope that this was not the final answer of the Congress and they say that discussions on this offer will be resumed at a later stage.

THE COMMUNISTS

Like all parties, the Communists also hope to gain about half a dozen seats among the Sikhs and the Labourers, but theirs has become a difficult case on account of the role they played during the August movement.

THE MAHASABHA

The Hindu Mahasabha, it seems, may not be able to get more than one or two seats. The organisers of their election board are already saying that they had no intention of nominating their candidates from the urban constituencies. They may contest some rural seats in the Districts of Kangra and Hoshiarpur. But they are not confident of the results and this is the reason that not a single candidate has applied to them for the constituencies of Lahore, Amritsar and Rawalpindi. Moreover, being uncertain of their fate in the elections the present representatives of the Hindu Mahasabha in the Punjab Assembly are not standing again from their constituencies. One of them is Dr. Gokal Chand Narang, who was Minister for Local Self-Government before the present legislature, and who gained good publicity during the recent meeting of the All-India Hindu Mahasabha by renouncing the title of 'Sir'. He is now considering over the proposal to stand for the Central Assembly from the constituency at present occupied by Bhai Parmanand, Rai Bahadur Mukand Lall Puri, another leader of the Hindu Mahasabha is pinning his hopes on the University seat. Formerly he had been elected from a general constituency.

The hardest of all the fights will take place for the Muslim seats for which the Unionist Party, the Muslim League, the Majlis Ahrar and Khaksars have already announced their intention of contesting the seats. The main tussle will, however, be between the Union ists and the Leaguers. They have collected huge sums of thirty-five and five lakhs respectively for this purpose.

Besides this both the parties are trying to get the support of the big religious heads to incite the religious sentiments of the Muslims in their favour. Huge sums are being spent for this purpose. The League has already set itself to foment their religious feelings by starting processions, in which slogans are raised against the Hindus.

No compromise seems possible between the Unionists and the Leaguers. Sir Feroze Khan Noon has already failed and similar attempts are sure to fail for obvious reasons. Mr. Jinnah cannot accept their offer of compromise as made by their spokesman recently, who said that the Unionist Muslims were prepared to join the League provided they were given the liberty of forming any coalition of their choice. The danger which haunts Mr. Jinnah is that if the present members of the Unionist Party were re-elected (which is natural in the case of a compromise) the leadership of the League will remain in the hands of Malik Khizr Hyat. Moreover a young group of aristocrats such as the Nawab of Mamdot and Nawabzada Daultana, who are yearning for the Ministry will not allow any discussion of compromise to succeed. They have already lured Mr. Jinnah into the belief that everything was o.k. with the League in the Punjab. But the position is not so. Ahrars and Khaksars, who are the best organised bodies of the Muslims, have already launched their election campaigns They do not lack money and workers, and one can witness huge public meetings which are being held under their auspices.

THE UNIONISTS

The Unionist Party, which may lose many seats, may also not emerge as a minority party. According to their calculations, they may capture about fifty seats from the Muslims. Like the League, they will also raise the slogan of Pakistan. They will also use the Tenancy Acts to their credit. Besides this, they are employing a band of workers for their propaganda. They are also copying the other tactics of the League. Though they will have no compromise with the Nationalist Muslims, it can be revealed they are ready to leave some seats for the Congress and the other parties on the condition that these parties should not come into conflict with them in the other constituencies. This offer was made by a big personality connected with the Unionist Party during his special mission in Bombay last week. This was categorically rejected by the Congress leaders. He was told that the Congress was not going to enter into any secret agreement with a reactionary party like the Unionist Party.

The Unionist Party, is however, still confident of gaining by the ensuing fight between the Muslim League and the Nationalist Muslims.

SIR FEROZE

As regards Sir Feroze Khan Noon, it has become clear that he is trying to capture the leadership of the League in the Punjab, which is a very difficult task. He bitterly complained against the attitude of the present leaders of the Punjab Muslim League who didn't care to invite him to their discussions and it is said that while he went to Quetta to appraise Mr. Jinnah of the cold reply of the Punjab Premier, he had also prepared a case against the leaders of the Punjab Muslim League.

Congress Election Work Begins

Free Press 5-10-45

ALL FOUR GENERAL SEATS TO BE CONTESTED

BOMBAY, Thursday.

The Bombay Provincial Congress Committee met today in an urgent session. The decision for inviting applications of candidature for the Central Assembly elections was taken in pursuance of a letter received from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Member-in-Charge, Congress Central Elections Committee, and special Committees for running the Electioneering Campaign and for collecting funds for it were set up.

The meeting was held in the afternoon at the Congress House, with Syt. N. T. Master presiding. Sixteen members attended it. At the outset, a condolence resolution on the death of Syt. Ganpatrao Vengasekar, husband of Smt. Shantabai Vengasekar, who is a member of the B.P.C.C. was moved from the chair and passed, all standing.

The Committee then considered the letter of Sardar Patel, asking the Committee to invite applications for the forthcoming elections to the Central Legislative Assembly. Initiating the discussion, Syt. S. K. Patil informed the House that October 25 was fixed by the Government as the last day for filing nominations, and the elections will be held on November 26. The Province of Bombay is entitled to four seats from the General constituencies.

In the 1934 elections, Congress had contested only two seats, and secured only one. This time the Congress has made up its mind to contest all the four seats, including those of the Merchants' Chamber and the Mill-owners' Association. This time the seat will be held by the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association by rotation, and hence the contest, if at all it became necessary, will be taken up by the B.P.C.C.

The Committee decided to invite applications for candidature with a deposit of Rs. 1100. Applications should reach the Central Elections Congress office at Congress House, Bombay, by 6 p.m. on October 14.

BY-ELECTION

The Committee was jubilant when Syt. S. K. Patil, General Secretary, brought the news that the Congress nominee in the Bhuleshwar Ward municipal by-election, Syt. Bhanushanker Yagnik, was elected without contest, the rival candidate Mr. P. D. Shamdasani, having withdrawn his candidature this afternoon.

NINE MEMBERS CO-OPTED

Syt. Patil thereafter moved the names of the following nine members for co-option on the B.P.C.C. Dr. M. D. D. Gilder, P. K. Savant, Dr. T. R. Narvane, Abidali Jaffarbhoy, G. N. Desai, Ashok Mehta, Dajibhai V. Patel, Hiralal Dave and Purshottam Thakkar. There are 25 elected members on the B.P.C.C. of which four, who were members of the Communist Party have been expelled recently, while one died, and four other resigned on the eve of the 1942 movement. One member Syt. Purushottam Tricumdas is still in jail. All the above nine members were co-opted as members of the B.P.C.C.

The B.P.C.C. also passed a resolution appointing a Get On the Roll Campaign Committee consisting of 20 persons with Syt. P. R. Lele and Syt. Saad Ali as Chairman and Secretary respectively. Syt. Patil in this connection, explained that there were now hardly 15 days left for applications for registration on the electoral rolls, but since the machinery of the campaign was already set up, the Congress looked forward to very heavy fresh registration.

The Committee also set up an Election Campaign Board consisting of a large number of persons, with Syt. P. K. Savant as Chairman, to launch a whirlwind election campaign on behalf of the Congress. The decision was also taken to set up an Election Finance Committee, the personnel of which will be announced later.

SARDAR'S BIRTHDAY

The B.P.C.C. by a resolution set up an influential committee with many prominent Congress workers, business magnates, and journalists on it, for collecting funds and drawing up a scheme for suitably celebrating the 71st birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, which falls on October 31. The Committee has in view an ambitious scheme of building a spacious Sardar Hall with accommodation for 10,000 persons, in the heart of the city. But in order not to hamper the work of several public funds, like the Mahatma Desai Memorial Fund, the Committee has held this idea in abeyance for the time being.

By another resolution, Dr. V. B. Koregaonkar was adopted as the Congress candidate for the municipal by-election in the Parel Ward, necessitated by the death of the Congress Corporator, Syt. Parleker.

A few resolutions amending the constitution of the B.P.C.C. in accordance with the resolutions of the A.I.C.C. were also passed.

ELECTIONS IN SIND

Choice Of Congress Candidates

KARACHI, Oct. 6.

The Sind Provincial Congress Committee which met last evening appointed a parliamentary board consisting of Dr. Choithram Gidwani, Jairamdas Doulatram, Moulvi Mohd. Sidi, Swami Krishnanand, Dr. Vatanmal, Dapmainand Pherumal and Miaram Chellaram.

The S.P.C.C. meeting unanimously appointed the above seven members, who are not candidates for the forthcoming election. The Board commences the work of giving tickets to applicants immediately and its first meeting is to be held at Hyderabad today.

HEATED DISCUSSION

The arrangement recently arrived at between the Congress High Command and Sind Congress leaders on the occasion of the A.I.C.C. meeting, following which Revenue Minister Nichaldas Vaziranl joined the Congress, was hotly debated for nearly three hours behind close doors. In the course of discussion the Sind leader strongly appealed to the members to obey the High Command directive and offer a united front to the Muslim League in Sind.

Ultimately the meeting adopted a resolution ratifying the arrangemen Gordhan Vaziranl and another ap plicant from Tatta constituency from where Mr. Nichaldas is contesting th elections on the Congress ticket, wer requested to withdraw their appl cations.

UNDEMOCRATIC

The Council adopted a resolution condemning the reported failure on the part of returning officers in Sind to adopt a uniform policy in all districts and pointing out a number of difficulties experienced by the public in applying for amendment to the electoral rolls.

The resolution characterised the Sind Government's election policy as a violation of democratic principles.

A.I.C.C. DECISIONS ENDORSED

The Council, by another resolution, endorsed the A.I.C.C. resolution of the "Indian National Army" but recommended to the Working Committee to give direction to the I.N.A. Defence Sub-committee to work also for the release of Indians in Malaya, Java and Philippines, including those Sindhis, who had been interned for alleged collaboration with the Japanese. It was pointed out that three Sindhis are detained now in Sind jails and 12 others have been recently arrested at Calcutta on those charges.—A.P.

Punjab Congress Election Drive

(From Our Correspondent)

LAHORE, Oct. 6.

A sum of Rs. 5,00,000 will be raised by the Punjab Congress to fight the ensuing elections.

The election campaign will be formally inaugurated by the Congress President.

Applications from Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar, Lala Shamlal Ratzarle Hanaraj and Sardar Sant Singh have already been received for the Central Assembly seats.

SIR VIJAYA FOR CENTRAL ASSEMBLY

Leader — 4-10-45

Not on Sabha Ticket b' as Independent

Bombay, Oct. 1.—Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya of Vizianagram has issued the following statement: 'I was surprised to read in the *Leader* of Allahabad dated Sept. 27 a press message saying that the United Provinces provincial Hindu Mahasabha had decided to set me up as their candidate for the U. P. Legislative Assembly from the U. P. Landholders' constituency. I hasten to contradict this in toto. To start with, I do not propose standing for election to any provincial Assembly at all. At the bidding of my brother zamindars and friends I have decided to seek election to the central Assembly from the U. P. Landholders constituency. I stand as an Independent. I do not belong to this party or that. I intend representing all the land-owning class of the United Provinces irrespective of caste or creed. I shall be taking a mandate from every brother zamindar of mine, be he a Hindu, a Muslim or a Christian.

Whilst th air is so full of abolition of landlordism it shall be my constant duty and my endeavour to put forth at all events the progressive landlords' point of view on the floor of the Central Assembly and to all those whom I shall be coming into contact with. We zamindars must assure our critics that we shall march with the times and strive for the well-being of the hewers of wood and drawers of water and make common cause with the masses in their fight for India's freedom. I have said from many platforms that if our order is to save itself from extinction it must mingle with the masses and draw inspiration from them from day to day and not rest on the laurels of a petrified past or the glory of medieval times. We must not depend any more on foreign protection. We should make ourselves worthy of protection from our own countrymen. By remodelling the landlord spirit in India we shall be able to convince our countrymen that far from any idea of extinction we as good and reformed landlords have as much a place in this country as anybody else.'

THE TIMES OF INDIA

21-1-45

Radical Democrats To Fight Elections

MR. M. N. ROY OPENS BOMBAY CAMPAIGN

The Radical Democratic Party has decided to contest the elections on the issue of the future constitution for India. Mr. M. N. Roy made his first election speech to a large gathering at the Sir C. J. Hall, Bombay, on Wednesday.

Mr. Roy declared that the procedure for a constituent assembly as could be gathered from the Viceroy's latest announcement was thoroughly undemocratic, as the provincial assemblies elected by a restricted electorate could hardly claim the right to frame the future constitution of the country.

Referring to the demand of the Radical Democratic Party that there should be universal suffrage before any constitution is drawn, Mr. Roy observed that it was a stand which everybody ought to support, for the population that remained unenfranchised was composed of workers and cultivators. They were the real backbone of the nation and they must have a voice in framing the future constitution. The immediate task facing the candidates for election to the assemblies was to qualify themselves as popular representatives by pledging themselves to press for the enfranchisement of the entire adult population before the future constituent assembly was conveyed by any set procedure.

FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. Roy expressed misgivings regarding the possibility of even a constituent assembly framing an agreed constitution expeditiously and satisfactorily. There was every danger, he said, of the constituent assembly itself ending in a fiasco. Huge as it would be, such an assembly might not arrive at any decision regarding the form of government for India. There would be endless talks, numerous proposals and counter-proposals and the danger of older parties disagreeing with one another, he added.

The most practical way, in Mr. Roy's view, was that every party should draw up a draft constitution and seek the verdict of the electorate.

"The Radical Democratic Party is the youngest political party in India," declared Mr. Roy. "We stand for a constitution which will establish the people's freedom securely and guarantee the greatest good of the greatest number," he asserted.

Suppression of Congress Manifesto

Tribune 8-11-45

Every word of the Congress election manifesto shows that this great national organisation is struggling to enable the Indian masses to come into their own. Newspapers of Britain, which are never tired of boasting that they are unerringly fair and just,—including "Socialist" newspapers —have completely suppressed it. They have not published a single line of this important declaration. When the attention of the critical Labour peer was drawn to the fact that it guaranteed the government of the people by the people, for the people he turned round and said: "It is easy to make promises; but it is most difficult to fulfil them. We say one thing; we do quite a different thing." Living in the midst of British Socialist traditions the Labour Lord could not think and talk otherwise. Did not Mr. Bevin promise that as soon as he would come into power he would abolish the India office? And did he not break that promise? Again, did not the Labour Party declare that as soon as it would find itself at the helm of British affairs it would reverse the Churchillian foreign policy? And has it not been following it with astonishing tenacity and vigour?

Congress Election Work In Frontier

6-10-45

Pak Press

PESHAWAR, Oct. 5

Khan Ali Gul Khan, President of the Frontier Provincial Congress Committee, and Rai Bahadur Mehrchand Khanna, Secretary of the Congress Parliamentary Party, visited Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan at the Sardaryab Red Shirt training centre and are believed to have discussed certain important questions in connection with the general elections, as a sequel to which Khan Abdul Qayum Khan Sawati, General Secretary of the Frontier Provincial Congress Committee, left for Lahore to meet Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Congress President.

When his attention was drawn to his recent statement regarding his attitude to the coming election, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan expressed surprise over the changing of the entire sense of his statement by deleting the most important portion, in which in spite of his reluctance, he agreed to accept responsibility under certain conditions.

In that statement he definitely mentioned and he would watch the activities of his workers for about one month and if he found some improvement and was convinced that there was a definite change for the better, he would not hesitate to help them.

REORGANISATION OF RED SHIRTS

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan has decided to convert the present Sardaryab Red Shirt camp into a regular training centre for Khudai Khidmatgars. The centre will not only be a residential institute for Khudai Khidmatgars but a self-sufficient colony.

The building of the centre will b shortly constructed and in addition to separate blocs and rooms for each of six districts, it will include the office and residential rooms of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. There will also be a separate room for the office of his weekly paper, the 'Pakhtoon" the Red Shirt organ, which is being published under his editorship.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan held meeting of the editorial staff of the 'Pakhtoon" to discuss ways and means to improve the standard of the paper.

DR. KHAN SAHIB

Dr. Khan Sahib, the Frontier Premier, returned to Peshawar after a day's visit to Nathiagali He is expected to visit Delhi shortly.—A.P.

MAULANA HASRAT MOHANI ON COMING ELECTIONS

5-10-45

Deprecates Move To Exploit League's Name By Titled Gentry

(From Our Correspondent)

LUCKNOW, Oct. 3.

A piquant situation has arisen within U. P. Provincial Muslim League, as a result of Maulana Hasrat Mohani's recent tours in the Eastern U. P. Districts, where he is reported to have stated that he would see to it that no Nawab or Raja was allowed to exploit Muslim League influence to secure his election.

It will be recalled Maulana Hasrat Mohani is one of the oldest Congressmen who has always believed in the slogan "Either I am a Communist or Communalist." He got himself elected to the Provincial Muslim League Parliamentary Board in last meeting of the Provincial League Council, held recently to propagate his socialist views.

It is stated men like Nawab Sir Mohd. Yusuf are thinking of taking a disciplinary action against Maulana's activity. The Maulana, during his recent tours has refused to address any meeting held in support of any League candidate who was a Khan Bahadur or a Khan Saheb.

Hitavada 3-11-45

CENTRAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION

Reaction To Mr Salve's Nomination By Congress

NAGPUR, Nov. 1—November 22 has been fixed for the polling of votes for the Nagpur Division Non-Mohammaden Constituency, for election of the Central Assembly.

Mr P. K. Salve. Advocate, is the Congress nominee for the seat and will be opposed by Rao Saheb Paranjpe, retired District and Sessions Judge, who is contesting on the Hindu Sabha ticket. As already announced in the 'Hitvada'.

This constituency consists of the Nagpur, Wardha, Chanda, Chhindwara (including Seoni) and Betul districts. There are 10,819 voters distributed as follows:

Nagpur District 6221.
Wardha District 1723.
Chanda District 880.
Chhindwara District 1381.
Betul District 614.

The nomination of Mr Salve by the High Command in preference to Seth Punam Chand Ranka, President of the Provincial Congress Committee, has created a feeling of dissatisfaction among the followers of Seth Ranka. It is stated that a telegram was sent to Sardar Patel pointing out that the nominee of the Central Parliamentary Board was not in a position to foot his election bill. Another telegram was sent in the name of the Student's Congress asking the High Command to reconsider the decision and nominate Seth Punam Chand Ranka. It is reported that under instructions from the High Command a member of the Provincial Congress Committee made inquiries at Nagpur and has reported that Mr Salve is quite willing to bear the expenses of his election and that the telegram sent in the name of the Students Congress was without the knowledge of the office-bearers or the executive, of the Students Congress.

Mr M. S. Kannawar, Secretary, Nagpur Provincial Congress Committee has asked all the Congress Committees in the province to concetrate all their activities on the election propaganda and to canvass voters in their areas.

Muslim Nominees for Central Assembly

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LEAGUE BOARD

NEW DELHI, October 10: The Central Parliamentary Board of the All-India Muslim League, which concluded its meeting today, has nominated the following persons as Muslim League candidates for election to the Central Legislative Assembly from the Muslim constituencies.

Bombay: (1) Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City); (2) Mr. Mohammed Moosa Killedar (Northern division).

Madras: (1) Mr. K. M. Rahmat Ullah (North Madras); (2) Mr. M. J. Jamal Moideen (South Madras); (3) Mr. H. A. Sathar and Mr. H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris).

U. P.: (1) Nawab Mohammed Ismail Khan (Cities of the U.P.); (2) Nawabzada Liaqat Ali Khan (Meerut division); (3) Sir Mohammed Yamin Khan (Agra division); (4) Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmed (U.P. Southern division); (5) Raja Mohammed Amir Ahmed of Mahmudabad (Lucknow and Faizabad divisions).

Punjab: (1) Sayed Ghulam Bhik Narang (east Punjab); (2) Moulana Zafar Ali Khan (east Central Punjab); (3) Mr. H. M. Abdullah (west Central Punjab); (4) Nawab Sir Syed Mohammed Mehr Shah (north Punjab); (5) Capt. Syed Abid Husain Shah (north-west Punjab).

Bihar and Orissa: (1) Mr. Mohammed Naumun (Patna and Chota Nagpur with Orissa); (2) Mr. Habibur Rahman of Ranchi (Tirhut division); (3) Mr. Abid Husain (Bhagalpur division).

Central Provinces and Berar: Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (C.P. and Berar).

Assam: Ali Asgar Khan (Assam-Muhammedan).

Sind: Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind-Muhammedan).

The names of Muslim League candidates for the constituencies of (1) Bombay Southern division (2) U. P. Rohailkhand and Marwan divisions and (3) south-west Punjab will be announced later as the Central Parliamentary Board has asked for further information with regard to the various candidates who have applied for the Muslim League ticke.

The recommendations of the Provincial Parliamentary Board of Bengal are expected to reach the Central Parliamentary Board by October 15 when the names of selected candidates will be announced by the Central Parliamentary Board after their meeting in Karachi. The Central Parliamentary Board has decided not to put up any candidate on the Muslim League ticket from joint electorate constituencies of the Central Legislative Assembly.—*A.P.I.*

Four persons, Mr. A. A. Gheewala, Khan Saheb M. H. Fazandar, Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffar and Abdul Majid Tungekar have applied for the seat allotted to the Southern Division of Bombay. The Board, after considering all the applications, has forwarded the papers to the Central Parliamentary Board for report.

Appealing to the Parsi voters to enrol themselves, if they have not already done so, Mr. Naushir Bharucha writes to say that the enrolment campaign, started by the Parsi Central Association and Political League, Bombay, will be continued till October 22.

Helping League In U. K.

LONDON, October 9: Appreciating the need for strengthening the Muslim "voice" in Great Britain, Mr. M. A. Jinnah and Nawabzada Liaqat Ali Khan have appointed Mr. Z. A. Suleri to assist the Muslim League in this country. Mohammad Abbas Ali, President of the London branch of the League stated today.—*Reuter.*

Mr. Asaf Ali For Assembly

NEW DELHI, October 11: Mr. Asaf Ali has been chosen by the Delhi Provincial Congress Committee as the Congress candidate for election to the Central Assembly from the Delhi Joint Constituency. The Muslim League has decided not to contest this seat, but it is likely that the Hindu Mahasabha will put up a candidate.—A.P.I.

NAGPUR CONGRESS SABHA CONTEST

Central Assembly Seat

NAGPUR, October 11: Five candidates have applied for the Congress ticket for one seat from the Nagpur division non-Mohammedan constituency to the Central Assembly. The Executive Committee of the Nagpur Provincial Congress Committee met on Wednesday to consider the applications which will be forwarded to the Central Congress Parliamentary Board with its recommendation for the final selection of the Congress candidate. It is learnt Mr. Govind Vinayak Deshmukh, the sitting member, is among the applicants.

The Central Provinces (Marathi) Hindu Mahasabha has decided to put up its own candidate for the same constituency. The Hindu Mahasabha has invited applications from candidates seeking to stand on the Mahasabha ticket. This indicates the prospects of a contest between the Congress and the Mahasabha in Nagpur at the ensuing elections.

Dr. B. S. Moonje, it may be stated is now in Nagpur and the Mahasabha decision to contest the seat, it is stated, follows the discussions he had with the local Mahasabha workers.—*A.P.I.*

Sam. Press TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1945.

QUIT INDIA CAMPAIGN IN THE FRONTIER

Congress Starts Election Drive

PESHAWAR, Oct. 1.

"India is your own country. Free it. And unless you realise that it is better to die than to live as slaves, India cannot be free," said Dr. Khan Sahib, the Frontier Premier, in an election speech at a public meeting here.

Dr. Khan Sahib said: "I do not believe in speeches. I am a practical revolutionary and it is my honest conviction that nothing can be achieved without revolution. You must learn a lesson from this war in which nations fought simply to maintain their freedom and some of those who emerged as slaves preferred suicide. All those are mistaken who expected Japan or Germany or Russia to win freedom for India. It is the Congress and the Congress alone which is fighting for India's freedom. The Congress is a national body, which has in it Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims, who are superior to the Muslims. Hindus and Sikhs of the communal organisations in the sense that they make sacrifices for the nation and the country while the latter do not possess these qualities.

LEAGUE SHAM

"You are created for action, not for mere talk. I do not blame those of my friends, who have left us, but I feel sorry when they ask me to leave an organisation like the Congress and join the Muslim League, which is merely a body of talkers. We could not agree to the five Muslims of the League at the Simla Conference as we knew that its nominees would not act better than they did in this province in the days of the Muslim League Ministry."

Dr. Khan Sahib appealed to the people to listen to all other organisations especially the guests who come from outside with peace and calmness and abstain from abuses.

LEAGUERS—SEASONAL FROGS

Qazi Ataullah, the Education Minister, asked Peshawar citizens to vote for the Congress for getting independence and not for sugar or cloth. He compared Muslim Leaguers to seasonal frogs, who, he said, entered the field of politics at the time of elections and exploited the poor masses in the name of Islam. He asked the League leaders where they were at the time of the national struggle and sacrifices.

"You should judge all organisations by sacrifices and the number of Khan Bahadurs in it," he said: "I assure you that Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan has not spent the whole of his life to sell Muslims to Hindus but to win your freedom. Look at the past deeds of the League, which, during its two years' Ministry, showed you some aspects of Pakistan. All your troubles are due to slavery and you can break the chains by supporting the Congress."

Khan Abdul Qayum Khan Sawati, General Secretary of the Frontier Congress, said that the Muslims were in the Congress to win freedom and it mattered little if they differed from the Hindus in certain respects."

Congress Makes "Quit India" Election Slogan

CAMPAIGN SET IN MOTION IN CITY

BIG GUNS FIRE OPENING SHOTS

BOMBAY, Monday.

THE first election broadside was fired at the Bombay electorate today on behalf of the Congress, after the formal sanction granted from the All-India Congress Committee. Three Big Guns of the Congress Working Committee—Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Shri Shanker Rao Deo were brought into action, this evening at a mass meeting held at the Shivaji Park, under the auspices of the B.P.C.C.

Sardar Patel presided. Over a lakh and a half people were present.

Under a raised rostrum, adorned with a fluttering Tri-Colour, the leaders occupied their chairs one after another. They were garlanded on behalf of several organisations. The Dadar Gumasta Mandal went in a procession. A purse of Rs. 411 was collected and presented to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru by the Matunga Youvak Mandal for the Kamla Nehru Hospital Fund.

At the outset, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel expressed his delight at the vast concourse at the conditions of liberty under which they could meet after three years. He referred to the A.I.C.C. session that had just concluded, and assured better hospitality next time.

MAGIC MASS AWAKENING

He pointed out at the vast semi-circle of humanity listening to the leaders' speeches with rapt attention, and remarked, "This demonstrates the rapidly spreading consciousness of the Indian people. Wherever we go, we witness the same phenomenal mass awakening. Before three years, on the dawn following the passing of the "Quit India" resolution, hopes were entertained in Government quarters that the Congress was finished. In jail, we were reading in newspapers that the people were demoralised and frustration had set in. Patched up a compromise with the Government or with the League, to retrieve the situation, that was the piece of advice offered by some friends. We were not convinced of it. Till not a single member of the Working Committee betrayed weakness, we were confident that the people would carry on the fight relentlessly.

"QUIT INDIA"

Sardar Patel put a matter-of-fact question to the powers that be. "What has been the whole quarrel with the Government? The alien rule must quit from this land. There could be no rule other than of the people who dwell in the country."

Referring to the programme chalked out for the next few months at the A.I.C.C. session, Sardar Patel observed, "one of the resolutions passed at the session has placed an immediate responsibility upon you. The task assigned to you this time involves no risking of fortunes or courting of suffering. You are enjoined to demonstrate your faith in the Congress. Sardar Patel referring the August happenings thundered. "Warm greetings from me to all those who stood for action, endorsable or otherwise, during the 1942 rebellion. And I declare that the battle is not over, but is on. Only the phase has changed. It is the Government's choice when to end the war." Sardar Patel criticised the same diehard India policy continued by the British Labour Government.

OBSTACLES

"They have declared general elections for central and provincial legislatures. We are not against the general elections, but there are several avoidable obstacles in the path of free and fair elections. The Government will seek to demonstrate to the world through these elections that so many votes held by non-Congressmen were against the Quit India demand. No doubt, there are many snags in these elections. But we will take good care of them all. There are many patriots in the prisons yet and that is a proof positive that the war is still on. Only the front has changed, as it inevitably must. The shot has been fired and the gun has to be reloaded. We have to shape these vast numbers that flock round us into a disciplined task force.

HEAVY OBLIGATIONS

Coming to the elections, Sardar Patel reminded the people of Bombay of their heavy responsibilities. He was sure that both the seats of general constituencies will be made secure without contest, and if any contest arose, with the forfeiture of

(Continued on page 5)

CONGRESS LAUNCHES ELECTION CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

deposits. There were Muslim constituencies, where communal estrangement had been achieved by the British through separate electorates. But there was neither Hindustan nor Pakistan, but only an Englistan, until the people united and drove out the foreigners.

The demand for Pakistan was being heard only from the Muslim-minority provinces, which meant that those Muslims would be prepared to shift themselves to the Punjab or the Frontier. All these talks were empty without a Free India. Let the British stand aside for ten days, and the communal differences will be composed. Against any combination of powers India will fight for her freedom, and without a free India, the world would not have peace.

CITY'S LEAD

Concluding, Sardar Patel said that the city that gave the call of "Quit India" to the rest of the country should need no pleading for votes from outside leaders.

NEHRU'S ADDRESS

Pandit Nehru dwelt upon the immediate problems facing the country, namely what is the destination and what is the path.

He said: "You have once reaffirmed your faith in the 8th August Resolution. Of course, there could be no abstract sanctity about any resolution. There is no accession of strength in merely passing resolutions. But our resolutions become our vows. There might have been mistakes and false steps, but **no action of the Congress has stained the honour of India. Never has the Congress permitted itself to be cowed down in face of Government repression."**

Nehru discussed the advent of British Labour Party to power, and the latest Wavell broadcast. Rejecting them as utterly obsolete, he declared that our deliverance would be through our own might.

*

Pandit Nehru said that it was the people who had to decide the fate of their country, and not a committee sitting across the seas.

On the question of the forthcoming elections he declared that no significance lay in the installation of this ministry or that but in the owning up of "Quit India" demand, through the votes that may be cast. He hoped that group bickerings within the Congress would stop. All had to work for the establishment of the Kisan Mazdoor-Praja Raj.

POST-WAR SLUMP

Jawaharlal discussed at considerable length the problems of post-war slump and consequent unemployment and the demobilisation of the soldiers and the blocked sterling balances.

Shri Shanker Rao Dev, commended the constructive activities.

The meeting terminated with the singing of Vande Mataram.

Earlier in the afternoon, Pandit Jawaharlal addressed a crowded meeting of active Congress workers in the A.I.C.C. Pandal and answered questions on the starting of All India Congress Volunteer organisation and the position of parties within the Congress.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Roll Amendment Programme

ELECTORAL QUALIFICATIONS

Allahabad, Sept. 14.—The Government of the United Provinces have fixed the following programme for the amendment of the electoral roll of the U. P. Legislative Assembly:—

Oct. 22—Last date for filing applications for amendments.

Oct. 31 *to Nov.* 20—Publication of the list of amendments.

Nov. 22 *to Dec.* 2—List of claims and objections to remain published.

Dec. 3 to 17—Decision of claims and objections.

Dec. 22—Publication of the final amended list.

The amendments will not affect the voters at the primary scheduled caste elections because they cannot be made ready in time. But applications from the members of the scheduled castes, who are not enrolled as voters will be entertained in order to enable them to vote in the general election.

The S. D. O.'s will be the revising authorities to deal with applications for amendments relating to rural areas concerned. The Government have appointed city magistrates to deal with applications relating to cities and have asked district officers, if any extra officers will be needed for the purpose.

Mr. Govind Narain additional district magistrate of Allahabad, having handed over charge here today, on transfer to Farrukhabad, as collector and magistrate, Mr. Shyam Saran Das, additional city magistrate, has been appointed as election officer, Allahabad, pending, it is understood, the arrival of Mr. Satish Chandra I. C. S.

ELECTORAL QUALIFICATIONS.

There appears to be general ignorance about the qualifications, which entitle a person to be included in the electoral roll of the U. P. Provincial Legislative Assembly.

A person to be included in the roll of any territorial constituency must be resident in that constituency, namely he must ordinarily, be living in that area or maintain a dwelling house therein ready for occupation in which he occasionally dwells.

A person shall be qualified to be included in the electoral roll if he was assessed during the previous financial year to income-tax; or assessed to municipal-tax on an income not less than Rs. 150 per annum.

A person shall also be qualified to be included in the electoral roll if he is the owner or tenant of a house or building in the constituency the rental value whereof is not less than Rs. 24 per annum.

A person shall also be qualified to be included in the electoral roll if he owns land in the constituency on which land revenue of not less than Rs. 5 per annum is payable; or owns land free of land revenue, if land revenue nominally assessed for determining the amount of rates amounts to not less than Rs. 5 per annum; or is a tenant in respect of fixed rent of not less than Rs. 10 per annum is payable; or is an under-1930, tor in Oudh of land in respect Undepesh under-proprietary rent of indepest than Rs. 5 per annum is pay-

In A in the case of a constituency ing any part of the Hill Pattis of Kumaun, is resident in those Hill Pattis and is either owner of a free simple estate in those Hill Pattis, or is assessed to the payment of land revenue cesses of any amount in those Hill Pattis, or a Khaikar.

A person shall also be qualified to be included in the electoral roll if he is proved to have passed the upper primary examination, or an examination which is prescribed to be equivalent thereof; if he is a retired, pensioned or discharged officer, non-commissioned officer or soldier of his Majesty's regular military forces; and in the case of Hill Pattis of Kumaun, if he is a shilpkar and is in the prescribed manner selected and designated as their representative by the shilpkar families of that village.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR WOMEN

A woman shall also be qualified to be included in the roll if she is the pensioned widow or the pensioned mother of a person who was an officer, non-commissioned officer or soldier of regular military forces; or if she is proved in the prescribed manner to be literate or if her husband possesses the following qualifications:—

He is the owner or tenant of a house or building in the constituency the rental value of which is not less than Rs. 36 per annum; or was assessed to municipal tax on an income of not less than Rs. 200 per annum, or owns land in the constituency in respect of which land revenue amounting to not less than Rs. 25 per annum is payable; or owns land in the constituency free of land revenue if the land revenue nominally assessed on the land for determining the amount of rates amounts to not less than Rs. 25 per annum; or is resident in the Hill Pattis of Kumaun and in the constituency either owns a free simple estate in the Hill Pattis or is assessed to land revenue or cesses of any amount in those Hill Pattis, or is a Khaikar; or is in the constituency a permanent tenure holder or a fixed rate as defined in the Agra Tenancy Act tenant or an under-proprietor or occupancy tenant as defined in the Oudh Rent Act and is liable to rent of not less than Rs. 25 per annum; or holds in the constituency as a tenant, land in respect of which a rent of not less than Rs. 50 per annum or a rent in kind equivalent to not less Rs. 50 per annum is payable assessed in previous year tax; or is a retired, discharged officer officer of soldier of lary forces.

Wednesday, September 26, 1945 Hindustan Times

CONGRESS TO FIGHT MUSLIM LEAGUE TOOTH & NAIL AT THE POLLS

PROSPECT OF FURTHER NEGOTIATION SEALED: LAST DAY OF A. I. C. C. IN RETROSPECT

BOMBAY, SEPT. 23.—In a stormy session that sounded like the days before the war, the All-India Congress Committee today voted to participate in the elections in coming winter and spring, but not without voicing vast disapproval of the conditions in which they are asked to participate, writes Preston Grover, A. P. A. Staff correspondent.

"One of the greatest tests facing the Congress", Mr. Grover adds, "is whether they can gather enough Muslim votes to nullify Mr. Jinnah's contention that his organisation speaks for a large majority of his people. Pandit Nehru made it plain, however, that the Congress was going to fight the League tooth and nail at the polls. So emphatic was his speech that it seemed to put a wall up against any further negotiations between the Congress and the League."

Mr. Grover says: The votes were taken amidst considerable shouting in the audience, although it was fairly certain that most of the shouting was against speakers who attempted to modify the Congress attitude against separation of India. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru set the congregation to cheering when he declared that "the poorest Muslim is with the Congress" but that the Congress would have no further truck with the Muslim League, headed by Mr. M. A. Jinnah.

Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel and others assailed the British for having nothing more to offer than an opportunity to vote on registration rolls which greatly restricted the franchise.

"Every time we have gone to the Muslim League we have received a kick," Pandit Nehru said. "We never again shall go to the Muslim League with folded hands. We shall fight the Muslim League. We can afford to have no truck with them. But we shall go to the Muslim masses and hear their complaints and serve them."

Pandit Nehru spoke in Hindustani, using short-clipped sentences. After each sentence throaty roars echoed from thirty thousand in the congregation.

"No body doubts where the Muslim masses are," he said. "Let those who doubt where they are, follow me into the villages. They will see that the poorest Muslim is with the Congress."

It was strictly a peace and harmony session, however. When a Muslim delegate arose to appeal for a policy under which the Congress would support those Muslims who wished to set up their own constitutional convention, he was almost shouted down despite the fact that he was using the loud-speaker system. The speaker was Dr. Mohammed Ashraf of Allahabad, one of the few Communist members or delegates on the Congress Committee.

The session adjourned quickly after ratification of an amendment sending the Congress once more into the fields for election campaign such as has not been experienced since 1936 when previous elections were held.

As a concluding act of the session, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the scholarly Muslim President of the Congress, appealed to the delegates to have high spirits since he felt that the goal of freedom was in sight.

Another time the session was stirred to stormy shouting was during a challenge by a Muslim member to cooperate with the Muslim League. The member, Mian Iftikharuddin, offered an amendment by which the Congress would assure Muslims in the north-east and the north-west freedom "to mould their own destiny and to make their own decisions whether to join the Indian Union or not."

Commending his amendment, he declared that "the Muslims today are not with the Congress. Why? Because the Congress has not realised the seriousness of the Muslim demands. Today one is fighting with the other. Instead of fighting against the British it seems we may cut our own throats. If the Congress and the League unite we can change the course of history."

Pandit Nehru opposing the speaker's contention that Muslims were not with the Congress said that he knew enough of India and its problems to know differently. If Mr. Iftikhruddin wanted to see the masses following the Congress, he said, "Let him come out with me in my election tour."

But to accept this Muslim League demand, he said, was different. "As far as I can see it is better to be miles and miles away from the Muslim League. Again and again we went with folded hands only to receive kicks. Why do people who advocate Congress-League unity forget the word used by Mr. Jinnah against our revered President? Those who have put obstacles in the way of the country's freedom, those who have made us gulp many a bitter cup, with them we can have no truck."

KHIZR-NOON TALKS

No Concrete Result Yet Available

LAHORE, SEPT. 24.—It is understood nothing concrete has yet come out of the Noon-Tiwana talk for a League-Unionist reapprochement in the Punjab. Many hard knots were created in the League-Unionist relations in the province and following long parleys between Mr. M. A. Jinnah and the Punjab Premier Malik Khizr Hyat Khan Tiwana, last year the Muslim groups fell apart and Jinnah-Sikander Pact was set aside.

Sir Feroze Khan Noon leaves for Quetta tomorrow to meet the League President when, it is understood, he will acquaint Mr. Jinnah with the trend of talks he had with the Punjab Premier and decide the future course of action. —U. P. I.

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MADRAS LEGISLATURE ELECTORAL ROLLS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR REVISION

MADRAS, Aug. 21.

Announcing the decision to revise the electoral rolls of all the constituencies of the Provincial Legislature (reported already in these columns), the Government in the course of a Press Communique state:

The rules for the preparation, revision and publication of electoral rolls for the several constituencies of the Madras Legislative Assembly and the Madras Legislative Council provide that the Governor shall, from time to time notify a date by reference to which a list of additions and corrections to, and omissions from the roll shall be prepared. The electoral rolls of all the constituencies of the Madras Legislative Assembly and the Madras Legislative Council were revised in 1941. The rolls of the constituencies of the Madras Legislative Council for which triennial elections were due in 1943 alone were revised in 1942. His Excellency the Governor of Madras has directed that the rolls of all the constituencies of the Provincial Legislature shall be revised this year. Orders have accordingly been issued separately for the revision of the rolls fixing the 31st October, 1945 as the date with reference to which the rolls should be revised. The revision will consist in the preparation of a list of additions and corrections to, and omissions from, the existing final rolls which are now in force. The existing rolls after the incorporation of additions, corrections and omissions will be consolidated and reprinted.

For the convenience of the public, extracts of the rules relating to the electoral qualifications both in respect of the Madras Legislative Assembly and the Madras Legislative Council will be published in the Fort St. George Gazette. Persons who possess the qualifications on "the prescribed date", viz., 31st October, 1945, are alone eligible for inclusion in the rolls. Persons who are qualified to be voters but whose names have not been included in the final rolls that are now in force and persons the entries relating to whose names requires correction as to the manner or place of entry are hereby called upon to see that their names are included in the respective rolls or their entries corrected."

The following dates have been fixed for the several stages of the revision of the Legislative Assembly rolls 1. Constituencies other than Labour:—

(1) Publication of preliminary rolls—Not later than the 16th February, 1946 (Saturday).

(2) Filing of claims and objections—Not later than the 15th March, 1946 (Friday).

(3) Publication of lists of claims and objections, and lists of corrections, additions and removals and sending copies of objections, corrections, additions and removals to the persons concerned—Not later than 20th March, 1946 (Wednesday).

(4) Commencement of sittings of revising authority.—On the 27th March, 1946 (Wednesday).

Labour Constituencies:—

(1) Publication of preliminary rolls—Not later than the 16th February, 1946 (Saturday).

(2) Filing of claims and objections.—Not later than the 15th March, 1946 (Friday).

(3) Publication of lists of claims and objections, and list of corrections, additions and removals and sending copies of objections, corrections, additions and removals to the persons concerned.—Not later than the 20th March 1946 (Wednesday).

(4) Commencement of sittings of revising authority—Textile Workers' Trade Union Constituency—Madras Labour Union for textile mill workers, Madras.—On the 27th March 1946 (Wednesday); Railway Trade Union Constituency—(i) Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Employees' Union, Madras.—On the 30th March 1946 (Saturday); (ii) Bengal-Nagpur Railway Indian Labour Union, Waltair.—On the 5th April 1946 (Friday); (iii) South Indian Railway Employees' Association, Villupuram.—On the 8th April 1946 (Tuesday); (iv) South Indian Railway Labour Union, Golden Rock, Trichinopoly.—On the 12th April 1946 (Friday); Non-Union Labour Constituencies: (i) Districts of Madras, Vizagapatam, Guntur and Coimbatore (excluding Kollegal Division).—On the 27th March 1946 (Wednesday); (ii) Kollegal Division of the Coimbatore district.—On the 30th March 1946 (Saturday); (iii) Districts of Chingleput, East Godavari, Kistna and Malabar.—On the 1st April 1946 (Monday); (iv) West Godavari District.—On the 4th April 1946 (Thursday).

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTORAL ROLLS

The following dates have been fixed for several stages of revision of the Legislative Council electoral rolls:

(1) Publication of preliminary rolls—Not later than the 16th February 1946 (Saturday).

(2) Filing of claims and objections—Not later than the 15th March 1946 (Friday).

(3) Publication of lists of claims and objections and lists of corrections, additions and removals and sending copies of objections, corrections, additions and removals to the persons concerned—Not later than the 20th March 1946 (Wednesday).

(4) Commencement of sittings of the revising authority—On the 27th March 1946 (Wednesday).

The date for publication of the final rolls will be notified later.

Persons having claims and objections to prefer with reference to the preliminary rolls should do so before the date fixed in that behalf.

Forms of claims and notices of objections may be obtained free on application from Registration officers, and also from Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars in the case of Landholders' and Territorial Constituencies. Claims and objections may be presented to the Registration Officer in person or by agent or sent by post; in rural areas, Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars within the jurisdiction of the Registration Officer concerned are also authorised to receive claims and objections. No claim or objection based on any of the qualifications will be received by any of these authorities after the latest date fixed for the purpose, namely, the 15th March, 1946. A claim or an objection sent by post which does not reach the proper authority on or before the due date will be summarily rejected unless there is evidence to show that it was posted in sufficient time to have reached the authority concerned in the usual course on or before the due date. On no account will the dates be extended. Claims based on qualifications which should be brought to the notice of the Registration Officer by means of an application will not be entertained unless it is proved that an application in the prescribed form has been duly made on or before the prescribed date, 31st October 1945 and that it has been improperly rejected.

In view of the adoption of the Assembly rolls for local board and municipal elections it is very important that the name of every voter should be entered in the correct part of the rolls. Voters are advised to avail themselves of this opportunity to have their names entered in the correct ward, village or hamlet.

The Government trust that all interested persons will assist the electors by giving publicity to these arrangements and in particular to the need for applications from literates and others who can only be enrolled on application being made before the 31st October, 1945.

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FRONTIER ELECTIONS

Dr. Khan Sahib Explains Congress Programme

PESHAWAR, October 2.—Dr. Khan Sahib, Premier of the North-West Frontier Province, addressing a public meeting at Peshawar Cantonment last night, outlined the Congress programme on which it would contest the forthcoming elections.

He said: "The Congress is a revolutionary body, and as my own brain is full of revolution, I want to pour revolution into your minds also, so that you get independence, and our younger generations should stand shoulder to shoulder with other free nations. This is the main outline of the Congress programme to contest elections."

Dr. Khan Sahib said that if the Muslim League contests elections, it should also put its programme before the public, but should not deceive the poor masses. It was quite clear that independence was the only solution of all their difficulties.

Strongly refuting all allegations against the Frontier Congress Ministry, Dr. Khan Sahib said that he believed more in honesty than in winning a few seats through unfair means.—*A. P. I.*

Frontier Congress Board

PESHAWAR, October 2.—The Frontier Congress Parliamentary Board has been constituted with 13 members, including Khan Ali Gul Khan, President of the Provincial Congress, Khan Abdul Qaium Khan Sawati, Secretary of the Provincial Congress, and Dr. Khan Sahib, Premier.

The Board has fixed October 15 as the last date for the receipt of applications for candidature to the Central Assembly, while that for the provincial Assembly is November 1. The applications for the Central Assembly will be received directly by the Board, while those for the provincial seats will be received through District Congress Committees.—*A.P.I.*

Communist Alliance With The League

OPEN DECLARATION

CALICUT, Oct. 1.

Mr. E. M. Sankaran Nambudri Pad, member of the Executive Committee of the All-India Communist Party, in a speech here declared that the Communist Party would wholeheartedly support League candidates in the ensuing elections and put up Communist candidates in general constituencies where they have a hold independently of the Congress.

HE HINTED THIS WOULD BE THE GENERAL POLICY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN OTHER PROVINCES ALSO.—A.P.I.

C. R.'S RETURN TO THE CONGRESS

President's Acceptance

NEW DELHI, Oct. 1.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Congress President, has sent the following telegram to the Secretary, Provincial Congress Committee, Madras:

"Sri Rajagopalachari applied to me directly for enrolment as primary member while the Congress was under ban and as President of the Congress, I accepted it. His regular enrolment as a primary member, Madras Province, should, therefore, take effect from August 19 last, when I informed him that I had taken cognizance of this fact. Please note and act accordingly."

The Congress President has sent the telegram because a number of telegraphic messages were being received by him from several Congressmen asking him to clarify the position.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad is flying to Lahore at 7.30 tomorrow morning.

Archbishop Murdered

CAIRO, Oct. 1.

The Coptic Archbishop of Jerusalem, Rev. Theophilous, was found dead this morning in a ditch in a field around a monastery at Bush between Beniswef and Fayoum in Upper Egypt. Murder is suspected and several arrests have been made.

The Archbishop was reported to have been in negotiation for two lorries carrying wheat crop from Wahfland controlled by the Monastery. This was resented by Fellahin transport workers previously employed because they thought it would endanger their livelihood.—Reuter.

SIKHS TO FIGHT ELECTIONS ON THEIR OWN

Free Press 2-10-46

Vehement Opposition To Pakistan

LAHORE, Oct. 1.

THE ALL-INDIA AKALI Conference which opened on Saturday, September 29, at the village of Lohianwala, near Gujranwala, unanimously passed a resolution demanding the immediate transfer of political power, deciding to fight the elections on their own ticket, and pledging support to the Congress in the fight for freedom.

The following is the full text of the resolution:

"This Conference has carefully considered Lord Wavell's proposals and is of the opinion that the same are halting and unsatisfactory. These are based upon the Cripps proposals which were rejected by the Sikhs and the other political parties.

"In the opinion of this Conference, nothing short of immediate transfer of all political power from the British Parliament to the people of India will satisfy Indian public opinion.

THEIR OWN TICKET

"In view of the fact that the Legislatures elected in the coming elections are to form the basis of the creation of the constitution-making body, these decisions are bound to have far-reaching effects on the future of the community, and further in view of the Pakistan movement and the activities of the Communist Party which are a grave menace to religious, social, political and economic well-being of the Sikh community, this Conference resolves that Sikh representatives in the Provincial and Central Legislatures should be elected on the ticket of the Shiromani Akali Dal. But the selection of the candidates will be made by the Sikh Election Board to be appointed by Master Tara Singh as decided in the Panthic gathering, for only such representatives can effectively safeguard the interests of the community and can also fight for the country's freedom.

SUPPORT FOR CONGRESS

"This Conference further declares in clear terms that the representatives of the Shiromani Akali Dal, while safeguarding the interests of the Sikhs will always stand by the Congress in all political matters and will fully co-operate with the Congress in its fight for the country's freedom.

This Conference hereby calls upon all Sikhs to lend their full and hearty support to the candidates put up by the Shiromani Akali Dal in the coming elections."

Sardar Mangal Singh, M.L.A., (Central), moving the resolution, said that, the Sikhs would resist all attempts to establish Pakistan. "To hell with Pakistan. We Sikhs will oppose it tooth and nail."

He said that the Sikhs, though small in number, had always played a prominent part in the national struggle for freedom, while the Muslim League only put a co sition on its participation in this struggle. It asked for Pakistan first. The Sikhs drew inspiration from the martyrdom of their gurus and from their glorious history of heroism. That is why with them the issue of freedom came first.

Sardar Mangal Singh said that even in 1942 the Shiromani Akali Dal supported the Quit India resolution of the Congress, while the Muslim League opposed it. The League wanted Pakistan to be established with the help of British bayonets, and the League leader went so far as to suggest to the British that they should divide India and then quit it. We Sikhs," he said, want the British to quit India."

He appealed to the Sikhs to vote for the Shiromani Akali Dal and urged the Congress to give them a free hand in the matter of election. He said that only Sikhs unequivocally opposed to Pakistan could fight this poisonous scheme.

SUSPICIONS

There were suspicions, he said, that some day the Congress might agree to Pakistan. If we are returned on the Congress ticket, our line would be sealed in that situation. "We do not want to go to the Legislatures on the Congress ticket, for we do not want to be accused later of indiscipline."

Sardar Mangal Singh said that it would not harm the Congress in any manner if the Sikhs fought the elections on their own ticket. Congress Sikhs should have no objection to this, for the Shiromani Akali Dal would side with the Congress on political matters and on the freedom issue.

"We want freedom of activity in regard to the elections for two reasons. First, if the Congress compromises its principles by conceding Pakistan, the Shiromani Akali Dal will carry on the fight against this scheme of dividing the country and will see to it that the country remains one and undivided. Second, the Shiromani Akali Dal later does not want to be accused of resorting to 'ahimsa' in its struggle against Pakistan."

Sardar Baldev Singh, the Punjab Minister, said that even if the Muslim League promised to build houses of gold for the Sikhs in Pakistan, they would refuse to live in it. The Sikh Panth had proclaimed to the world its opposition to Pakistan in unambiguous terms. The Sikhs would have nothing to do with the Muslim League so long as it stuck to the Pakistan scheme. No Sikh worth the name could ever think of cooperating with a party which was scheming to vivisect India.

Arab League Oppose Pakistan

(FREE PRESS CABLE)

LONDON, October 1

Mr. Azzam Beg, Secretary of the Arab League, expressed himself totally opposed to the idea of Pakistan and said that the Muslim League cannot expect any support from the Arab League in this respect. He said:

"The Arab League does not support the Muslim League in India because the Arabs feel that the unity of India must be maintained at all costs, and the Pakistan idea is moonshine. Let Mr. Jinnah and other Muslim Leaguers realise that in the Arab League there are people belonging to all religions and yet they are all united for a common purpose."

I WILL SERVE CONGRESS CAUSE

Nichaldas After His Return From Bombay

KARACHI, Tues.—"I am now a member of an organisation which is a disciplined political body and whose members have admittedly rendered the greatest service to the country by sacrificing all that they possessed for the cause of the country," said Mr. Nihchaldas C. Vazirani, Revenue Minister to a representative of *The Daily Gazette* today.

"I will serve the cause which is dear to the heart of this organisation," he went on, "to the best of my ability".

After joining the Congress organisation, Mr. Nihchaldas has also applied for the Congress ticket to contest the forthcoming Assembly elections. "I have undertaken not to contest the Assembly seat unless the Congress is good enough to give me its ticket," he added.

Mr. Nihchaldas returned to Karachi yesterday after meeting Congress leaders at Poona and attending the A.I.C.C meeting at Bombay. He was very much impressed by the enthusiasm which prevailed at the A.I.C.C. meeting.

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NO NEED FOR INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN INDIA

Dr. Ambedkar's Plea To Labour Party

"The Labour Government in Britain should not waste its time and energy on instituting an interim government in India. It should proceed, at once, with the ultimate problem of establishing a government of the people, by the people and for the people and this should not take more than two years."

This is the opinion expressed to a representative of "The Times of India" by the Hon. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, prior to his departure for New Delhi from Bombay on Wednesday evening.

"An interim government," remarked Dr. Ambedkar, "may be an impossibility, as the Simla Conference has shown, or it may be a futility—old wine in new bottles."

The Depressed Classes, according to the Labour Member, have been treated by the Conservative Party in Britain "as a poor relation whose pretensions for recognition are not to be encouraged. The Labour Party has more kinship with the Depressed Classes, and if it is true to its aims and objects, the only way it can prove its faith is to come out boldly to the rescue of the Depressed Classes."

Dr. Ambedkar.

Dr. Ambedkar declared that Indian leadership at the moment "is in inept hands" and that there was need for a change. He analysed the British elections and said, "I could not help crying for my country and hanging my head in shame at the heroworship of political leaders who are responsible for misguiding the people."

In the course of the interview, Dr. Ambedkar said:

RATIONALISM IN POLITICS

"The lessons which the British elections have taught India are two. One is the triumph of the common man. For the first time in countries with a parliamentary system of Government, democracy in the real sense of that term has succeeded in destroying the rule of the governing class. The second lesson is the utter disregard of gratitude or personal predilection in elections. To have thrown away from power Mr. Churchill, whose services to the British Nation during the war can never be over-estimated, is probably the most unprecedented example of courage and rationalism in politics.

"Mr. Churchill was upheld as a war leader. The same Mr. Churchill was dethroned quite unceremoniously as being unfit for peace and reconstruction. These characteristics which were so markedly exhibited by the British people in the recent elections show that they are a people who are sound at heart.

HERO WORSHIP IN INDIA

"I was comparing, the other day, the conduct of Indians with the conduct of the British in the elections, and I could not help crying for my country and hanging my head in shame at the hero worship of political leaders responsible for misguiding the people, over-reaching their own ambit of power, losing opportunity after opportunity and in utter demoralisation accepting shadow without substance and ready to make peace without honour with utter disregard for the interests of the country, ready to glorify their own acts for which in other countries they would have been condemned as guilty men and sling out of politics.

"Someone has said that a people get the government they deserve. Much more true is it to say that in a political struggle the advance which a people can make is governed entirely by the capacity of their leaders for political strategy. If the leaders have no political strategy, then the only remedy for the people is to have other leaders.

"Any one who knows anything about the attitude of the British political parties towards Indian politics cannot fail to realise that there has been a marked difference between the attitude of the Conservative Party and that of the Labour Party. The Conservative Party knew well the problems and difficulties with which the Indian political problem is riddled. But the Conservative Party, instead of taking steps to solve them and make way for progress, took shelter behind them and proclaimed its inability to advance. The Labour Party, on the other hand, under the influence of doctrinaire democrats has made light of these difficulties. There is, therefore, a great danger of the Labour Party ignoring these difficulties and placing vast sections of people under a constitution without adequate protection. This would be a disaster of the very first magnitude.

"The Conservative Party has declared, in the past, that political settlement in India is to be governed by no more than an agreement between the two major parties. The first thing the Labour Government ought to do is to reverse this obnoxious principle and treat all the important elements in the national life of India on an equal footing in the matter of constitutional safeguards."

DON'T OPPOSE CONGRESS

Batliwalla's Appeal To Communists

KURNOOL, Nov. 14.

Mr. S. Batliwalla, Congress Socialist leader of Bombay, addressing a mass meeting here, yesterday, appealed to Communists to desist from contesting the Congress in elections, if they were "wise and honest patriots."

The Congress, he said, fought the elections on the issue of "British quit India." Every vote cast for the Congress endorsed "Quit India," while every vote against redounded to the country's discredit.

Any political party fighting the Congress in the present elections was reducing itself to the position of traitors.

He hoped wisdom would prevail on Communists, not to fight the Congress lest the Communists should be crushed out of existence.

He paid glowing tributes to "Azad Hind Fouj" and said, had "Azad Hind Fouj" succeeded, Indians would not have had to sue with Britain today for freedom. He appealed for Indian National Army funds and collected Rs. 200 on the spot.—A.P.I.

Communist Unions And Elections

Free Press 13/11/45

A very important decision has been reached by South Indian Railway Labour Union which is under strong Communist influence, at the recent Central Council meeting held at Tanjore on 25th and 26th October 1945. As a result of dissatisfaction with the Communist policy towards the Congress expressed by the rank and file in various centres, the Union has resolved not to set up any Union candidate for election from the Railway Trade Union constituency of the Provincial Legislature in the coming elections.

The Communist Party will, however, set up its own candidate while allowing the members of the Railway Union freedom to vote for any candidate of any political party, including the Congress, Justice and Muslim League Parties.

Engineering Factories In Bengal

BIHAR NEWS Amrita Bazar

SOCIALISTS' SUPPORT FOR CONGRESS

9-11-45

PRAISE FOR LEADERSHIP

Programme Of Organising Labour & Peasantry

(From Our Patna Office)

PATNA, Nov. 3:—A large number of Congressmen of the Province, holding socialist views, had a two-days' sitting in the National Hall, Mr. Phulamprosad Verma presiding.

The meeting adopted a statement as the declaration of its policy and programme.

The statement declared that there was absolutely no reason for the socialists to modify their well-thought-out and well-tried policy of working within the Congress and under its discipline. The statement examined the present policy and programme of the Congress and regarding the attitude of Congress leadership towards the August resolution.

SUPPORT FOR CONGRESS

The statement says: "The resolution, passed by the A.I.C.C. at Bombay, was comparatively soft, but the speeches, delivered on the occasion, were profoundly appreciative of the glorious chapter in the history of freedom movement and also of the tremendous sacrifices, made by the people in course of the movement. But if the Congress leadership was not prepared to go so far, we would certainly express admiration for the general tone of their speeches, which was one of defiance and not of surrender.

"To appreciate the stand of the Congress leadership it should not be forgotten that before the release of the members of the Congress Working Committee, there was outwardly a spirit of defeatism and frustration. Even Gandhiji's writing had mystified the situation. India became a whispering gallary and no one was prepared to speak on. It was in this situation Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, for the first time, hurled defiance at the authorities courageously, owned the movement, praised those, who had participated in it, attacked those who sabotaged it, held out a threat to hose officials, who had misbehaved, and offered shelter to those absconding. He was followed in this attitude by Sardar Patel, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and other Congress leaders. This definitely raised the political tone of the country and the moral of the people."

ECONOMIC PROGRAMME

With regard to elections the statement complimented the Congress leadership for having made "Quit India" as its battle cry. Now so far as economic programme of the Congress is concerned, proceeds the statement, the manifesto, just issued by the Congress High Command states that the Congress stands for moernisation of the industry and agriculture and the social control of all sources of wealth, methods of production and distribution so that Indians may grown into a co-operative commonwealth. "This is rather unsatisfactory and value. We would have liked definitely "socialisation of the industry and agriculture" in the manifesto and instead of social control we would have liked to put "social ownership". We would have mentioned, "Begin with the abolition of Zemindari and other intermidiary interests as prilliminaries to socialsaton." But on the whole there was no reason to be dissatisfied with the Congress programme. The statement, therefore, urges all socialists within the Congress to strengthen the Congress and help the organisation to capture all the seats in legislatures.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

The meeting expressed its hope, however, that in the selection of candidates cares should be taken to nominate those, who representated the spirit of August resolution. Candidates should also be such as fully accept the demand of the workers and peasants. The meeting decided to to carry on the old familiar programme of organising the peasantry labour and students.

The meeting expressed its resentment at continuing the ban on the Congress Socialists Party and at the wild and fanatastic charges, made against the party, particularly when the party was not in a position to defend itself and answer the criticism. The Congress Socialist Party being intergral part of the Congress and bound by Congress discipline, therefore discrimination against the party was most unjustified and vindictive.

Talks With Unionist Party

Times 18.9.46

SIR F. K. NOON'S PURPOSE

LAHORE, September 17: Sir Feroz Khan Noon, who arrived here on Saturday, when interviewed briefly touched upon the nature of the talks he will shortly have with the Punjab Premier, Malik Khizr Hyat Khan Tiwana, leader of the Unionist Party. He said: "First of all, I am going to see the Premier and all his friends who are also my friends, for I have worked among them for 16 years. I will do my utmost to make them join the Muslim League. This effort at an understanding should not take more than a week or ten days."

Saying that the Unionist Party had now outlived its utility, Sir Feroz Khan said that when the party was founded there was no question of transfer of power from Britain to India. But now when that transfer was going to take place the Unionist Party was being positively harmful to the Muslim interests.

Replying to the question whether it would be possible for the Muslim League to successfully enter into a coalition with the Hindus and Sikhs to form a Government in the Punjab Sir Feroz gathered himself alertly in his chair and said: "Yes certainly.

Asked whether this position of the Muslim League would not differ very much from what it was under the Sikander-Jinnah Pact before the breach last summer between Mr. Jinnah and the leader of the Unionist Party, Malik Khizr Hyat, Sir Feroz said: "Personally I will have no objection to this coalition being called Unionist. I have no objection to the Unionist demand, but what I want is that every Muslim should be returned to the Assembly on the League ticket. The coalition inside the legislature can be called by any name. I do not think the Muslims would be so foolish as to quarrel over the name.

Asked whether there was going to be any approach for an understanding between Congress and the Muslim League before the General Elections, Sir Feroz said, "I do not hink there is tny use of the League approaching the Congress before the elections because the Congress continues to put forward false claims of representing even the Muslims."

Sir Feroz Khan Noon plans to stay in Lahore for a fortnight. He said he was not definite about his future programme.—"A.P."

Patna Congress Socialists Meet

Hindustan Standard 11-11-45

From Our Patna Office

NOV. 3.—A meeting of Congressmen holding socialist views was held at the National Hall under the presidentship of Mr. Phulan Prasad Varma.

The meeting adopted the statement placed before it by Mr. Phulan Prasad Varma as the declaration of its policy and programme. The statement declared that there was absolutely no reason for the Socialists to modify their well-thought out and well-tried policies of working within the Congress and under its discipline.

With regard to the elections, the statement complimented the Congress leadership for having made "Quit India" as its battle cry. Now so far as the economic programme of the Congress is concerned, the manifesto just issued by the Congress High Command states that the Congress stands for modernisation of industry and production and distribution so that Indians may grow into a co-operative commonwealth. This is rather unsatisfactory and vague. We would have liked to add definitely socialisation of industry and agriculture in the manifesto and instead of social control we would have liked to put social ownership. We would have mentioned to begin with the abolition of zamindari and other intermediary interests as preliminaries to socialisation.

But on the whole there is no reason to be dissatisfied with the Congress programme. The statement, therefore, urged all socialists within the Congress to strengthen the Congress and help it to capture all the seats in the various legislatures.

The meeting decided to carry on the old familiar programme of organising peasantry, labour and students. The meeting expressed its resentment at the continued ban on the Congress Socialist Party.

"No Hasty Judgment On Communists"

Gandhiji's Reply To Joshi's Request For Inquiry

Mahatma Asks Friends To Be Guided By Their Own Knowledge

BOMBAY, Wednesday.

The attitude of Gandhiji towards the Communist Party in India is revealed in the correspondence that passed between Gandhiji and Mr. P. C. Joshi, General Secretary of the Party, which has been published by the People's Publishing House, Bombay.

MEANING OF "PEOPLE" IN "PEOPLE'S WAR"

The main part of the correspondence which extends over a period of 11 months deals with Mr. Joshi's replies to five questions put by Mahatma Gandhi to him. Mahatmaji first asks the meaning of 'People' in 'People's War'; Mr. Joshi gives a brief exposition of Communist policy in relation to the war, but Mahatmaji's further comments reveal that on this question the two leaders hold widely differing positions.

The second question Mahatma Gandhi puts is in connection with the finances of the Communist Party, asking whether he could inspect them. In his answer Mr. Joshi first offers to show the full accounts to Mahatmaji; secondly as Mahatmaji has shown such interest in the finances of the Communists, Mr. Joshi makes a "counter-request", asking Mahatmaji to send Sjt. Pyarelal with Mr. Joshi to any of a number of places. "He will find", Mr. Joshi continues, shrdi taoi snshi hrdiuhmb continues," not less than 10,000 and up to 50,00 and more assembled .... and he will find the vast majority paying to the Party Fund."

SAME SOURCE.

Mr. Joshi concludes his answer to this question by stating: "We collect money from the same source as you do—our great people. What helps us to do it is also the same weapon: their patriotic service."

In his next letter Mahatma Gandhi writes in connection with Mr. Joshi's answer to this question: "Your answer, as far as it goes. I hold to be completely satisfactory. I will not ask you for further proof about your finances".

In the third question Mahatma Gandhi refers to "the Communist Party actively helping the authorities to arrest leaders and organisers of labour strikes during the last two years".

Mr. Joshi in his reply categorically denies this and says: "We answer our opponents openly in mass meetings and challenge them to come and put their point of view to the workers".

INFILTRATION.

Fourthly, Mahatma Gandhi asks if the Communists have "adopted a policy of infiltrating the Congress organisation with a hostile intent."

Mr. Joshi replies: "We are inside the Congress as our right, as patriotic sons and daughters of the people, who join the common national organisation, so that we may be able to fight our hardest and best in realisation of the common goal of national emancipation and no slanders can even provoke us to give up this stand and forego the glorious privilege".

To Mahatmaji's fifth question whether the policy of the Communists was dictated from outside, Mr. Joshi answers:

"The Communist Party decided its own policy as it understands the interests of its own people and of the peoples of the world."

He concludes his reply to all these questions by saying: "I will not be fair to you if I withheld that your questions pained us because they embody the slanders that the enemies of Communism are circulating the world over and are only believed by persons with preconceived prejudicean. We are a new and rising force, born in the ranks of our own people and shot up through the flame of patriotism, which, not us but elders, like you in every country of the world ignited.....After the Congress and the League we have grown to be the third party in the country. It would be unfortunate if you were to misjudge us....."

In Mahatma Gandhi's next letter, after commenting on the answers to the first two questions, given above, he goes on to say:

EVIDENCE AGAINST REDS.

"I know your worth. You have very able young men and women, as selfless as I would claim to be. You are all hard working and possess great energy and you impose strict discipline on your workers. All this I prize and admire. I would not easily lose such a force because of any preconceived notions of mine".

But, says Mahatmaji, "evidence was pouring in on me unsolicited against your Party". And he gives instances of the visit of Babu Manoranjan Choudhury and the letter of Sjt. Kaleswar Rao of Benwada. From the letter Mahatmaji sends as extract, accusing Communists of enacting dramas, preaching murder, sexual anarchy, being spies and informers of the Government etc.

Mr. Joshi in his reply says:—"You are getting letters and documents against us as part of a well-organised campaign against us by three parties". Congress Socialists and Boseites). He deals with the two cases instances, dismisses Babu Manoranjan Choudhury's accusation as that of the agent of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (who is bitterly anti-Communist as he had been exposed by the Communists as a hoarder's man. Regarding Kaleshwar Rao's accusation, Mr. Joshi asks Gandhiji to call Sundarayya, the Andhra Communist leader, and Kaleshwar Rao together and judge "who is a true son of Andhradesh and who a better votary of truth". Or let Gandhiji organise a proper trial before the Andhra people with judges as Rajaji or Mrs. Naidu and with Kaleshwar Rao and Sunderayya speaking before the assembled people, who would give the verdict as the jury and for the judge to record.

INQUIRY.

Mr. Joshi in his letter suggests that the anti-Communist file of Gandhiji's be placed before any Congressman of eminence Mrs. Naidu, Rajaji or Sjt. Bhulabhai and concludes:

"I expect an answer to this but if you are not satisfied. I hope you will at least spare us the silly stories that petty slanderers for political reasons send you. If you want our views on any political issue or you want us to undertake any particular service of the people you have only to send the word. The more we find you failing to discharge your duty towards us as the nation's father, the harder we shall work to discharge our duty as the nation's sons. And one day, we shall have our blessings".

Mahatmaji in his next letter says he had placed the file in Shri Bhulabhai's hands and "asked him to instruct me (Gandhiji)! The rest of the correspondence consists of short letters which conclude with Mahatma Gandhi's answer to a request from Mohan Kumarmangalam on Mr. Joshi's behalf to publish the correspondence.

"NO HASTY JUDGMENT".

Gandhiji ends: "My own opinion is not formed. I want to pass no hasty judgment. Many honest Congressmen come to me or write to me from the various provinces that Communists have no principles save of keeping their party alive and beating their opponents with any stick that comes to their hands. I am not going to base my opinion on this evidence either. I dare not condemn you. Batliwala, Joshi or Habib of Lucknow. He was with me for over a month I think. He came for his father, Dr. Mahmud, former member of the Working Committee of the Congress. I like him very much. On the whole I agree with Rajaji that you should refuse to put yourself in the dock. I do not want to pass judgment against a political party. I tell friends to be guided by their own knowledge and not by my judgment which may be erring for want of complete evidence".

SOVIET COUNTER-MOVE AGAINST 'BIG TWO'

(Continued from Page 1.)

Washington and the effort at Potsdam will be to obtain an agreement among the Big Three as to terms to Nippon acceptable to all of them. This, of course, will involve the difficult question of Soviet ambitions in Asia, particularly in Manchuria and Korea.

Turkey Watching Potsdam

ISTANBUL, July 17 (U.P.A.)—Nowhere are the Potsdam deliberations more closely watched than in Turkey. Every newspaper carried banner head-lines announcing that the question of the Dardanelles will figure prominently at the "Big Three" talks.

Reports from abroad to the effect that Italy may be allowed to keep her North African colonies have been received here with mixed feelings.

In view of reports concerning the possibility of the internationalisation of certain Mediterranean ports, it is considered likely that Turkey will believe herself entitled to be included among the nations participating in such a scheme.

Tangier Conference

U.S. & British Denial

LONDON, July 18 (U.P.A.)—A Foreign Office commentator today denied reports from Paris that Britain has agreed to Soviet participation in the impending Tangier Conference. He said the Government still has not made a decision and that the question will be discussed at the Big Three Conference in Potsdam.

LITTLE ADO ABOUT MUCH!

LONDON, July 18 (U.P.A.)—The Potsdam correspondent of the Star began his dispatch on the Big Three parley today with the following lament:

"Never has so little news been available about so much."

Soviet Ambitions In Far East

NEW YORK, July 17 (U.P.A.)—Russia's Far East ambitions include protectorates, similar to the one they have over Outer Mongolia, over Sinkiang, Korea and Manchuria, "New York Times" correspondent C. L. Sulzberger reported today in a dispatch from Athens.

Sulzberger said Asiatic problems were held to be vital to the Big Three talks and said that stronger Sino-Russian co-operation had been noted.

RANGA ON OBJECTIVE OF KISAN CONGRESS

27-9-45

"Must Respond To Call For National Struggle For Freedom"

Bombay Chronicle

BOMBAY, Sept. 26 (U.P.I.): "It is the duty of the Kisan Congress Organisations to place all their resources in men and money at the disposal of the National Congress whenever the latter gives the call for a national struggle for freedom, unless by specific instructions the National Congress wishes the Kisan Congress organisations to concentrate only on Kisan problems for the time being. But even when such exemption is granted by the National Congress it is the duty of every Kisan organisation never to do anything to thwart, weaken or oppose the National struggle."

This is the object of the All-India Kisan Congress as laid down in its draft constitution which was considered by the Kisan Congress at its meeting held here under the presidency of Prof. N. G. Ranga yesterday.

BECAUSE family ties play a very important part in Punjab politics, Sir Firoz Khan Noon's decision to fight the election on the Muslim League ticket might create a serious split within the ranks of Malik Khizr Hyat Khan Tiwana's Unionist Party. The Noon and Tiwana families are related and it will be interesting to see whether they will join the electoral battle on opposite sides.

If Sir Firoz's attempt to persuade the Tiwanas and Unionists to join the League, is successful then the result of the forthcoming elections, according to some observers, is a foregone conclusion. On the other hand, should a large section of the Unionist decide to resist this amalgamation, then few will be able to prophecy which way the electorate will vote.

It appears Sir Firoz will try to strike a compromise on the basis of a modified Sikander-Jinnah Pact by which the late Sir Sikander Hyat Khan's followers were Unionists in the provincial sphere and Muslim-Leaguers in the All-India sphere. On this occasion, however, Sir Firoz will safeguard the Muslim League's representative character by demanding that Unionist Muslims agree to be returned to the Assembly on the League ticket.

Times 15.9.45

Self-Determination

IT is difficult to say whether the Congress Working Committee is deceiving itself or trying to deceive others. The resolution on self-determination, and the fact that it is not to be put to the All-India Congress Committee, will strike most people as a most inept way of tackling the fundamental issue exercising the country.

The members of the Working Committee cannot really be convinced in their own minds of the hope attributed to them by our special correspondent that Muslims will respond "to its appeal."

There is no definition of "each territorial unity," and words are still used which can be given any individual interpretation which may suit. That is not the way to grasp a nettle.

FUTURE OF FORWARD BLOC

Free Press 25.1.46

BOMBAY, Thursday.

That the All-India Forward Bloc, as soon as it becomes lawful, should function as a left-wing socialist party within the Indian National Congress was the opinion expressed by Mr. R.S. Ruiker President and Mr. H.V. Kamath, General Secretary of the Bloc, in a joint statement to the Press today.

Messrs. Ruiker and Kamath stated that as soon as the ban was lifted the members of the Forward Bloc would meet in conference and decide upon the future line of action. "There is no question of dissolving or merging the All-India Forward Bloc in any other party or group" said the signatories to the statement. "The Forward Bloc has a distinct role to play in India's politics and has to keep flying the flag of uncompromising opposition to British imperialism.

"We would have liked it very much if the A.I.C.C. had insisted upon the release of all political prisoners and detenus, the legislation of the All-India Forward Bloc the Congress Socialist Party, Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha and other political organisations now under ban, and furthermore the grant of universal adult franchise as conditions precedent to participation by the Congress in the forthcoming elections to the legislatures.

CO-OPERATION WITH CONGRESS

"We consider that the Congress should, before elections take place, carry on a countrywide campaign for the release of all political prisoners and insist upon the commutation of the death sentence passed on our brave soldier Mahendra Gope of Bhagalpur. We shall however co-operate wholeheartedly with the Congress in the forthcoming elections notwithstanding our internal differences as regards the attitude to be adopted towards the elections".

About the immediate work before the released Forward Bloc members Messrs. Ruiker and Kamath appealed to them to join the Congress in large numbers and to strengthen its fighting forces. "We have also to organise the Kisans and Mazdoors in their independent class organisations and to mobilise their energies in the struggle for freedom" they said. "We would appeal to our co-workers to help the students in building up a strong and united students organisation. The task that awaits us, released members of the Forward Bloc, is one of organisation and consolidation of all the anti-imperialist forces under the banner of the Indian National Congress and we hope that all our colleagues will rise to the occasion and to their duty towards our motherland."

Concluding they dwelt on the general policy of the Bloc 'vis-a-vis' the British Government and said: "We feel that the Congress and the nation should take a firm stand on the "Quit India" resolution of August 1942 and refuse to compromise with Britain except on the basis of the complete fulfilment of the 'Quit India' resolution."

NON-LEAGUERS TO CONFER

27-9-46

Lucknow Move To Set Up Joint Parliamentary Board

Bombay chronicle

(From Our Correspondent).

LUCKNOW, September 26.—Nationalist Muslims of the Province are meeting in Lucknow on October 4 and 5 to form a united front against the Muslim League by bringing together all non-League Muslim groups including the Muslim Majlis, Jamiat-ul-Ulema, Ahrars, Momins, etc. with a view to prove the hollowness of Mr. Jinnah's contention that the League represents 99 per cent of Indian Muslims. A joint parliamentary board of all Nationalist Muslim groups is to be formed at the Conference, preparations for which are going apace. More than 500 delegates representing different groups are expected to participate. Among those who are expected to attend are Maulanas Hafiz-ul-Rehmun, Riazuddin, Abdul Wajid, Mohomed Ahmad Kazmi, Iqbal Sohail, Bashir Ahmad, Abdul Salam, Abdul Haq Madani, Mohomed Mian Farooqi, Khwaja Abdul Majid Qazi, Adil Abbassi and Mr. Hafiz Mohomed Ibbrahim, ex-Minister of U.P.

An open challenge has been thrown by the Nationalist Muslim leader of U.P., Maulana Yunus Khalidi, to Choudhry Khalik-ul-Zaman to contest the forthcoming election to the Provincial Legislature from his own seat (Lucknow City Constituency) from which he was returned last time.

"I SHALL FIGHT PAKISTAN AT EVERY STEP, BY EVERY MEANS AND ON EVERY FRONT"

MASTER TARA SINGH'S REPLY TO MAHATMA GANDHI

AMRITSAR, Aug. 10.—Master Tara Singh has issued the following statement:—

"Mahatma Gandhi in his recent interview, said that the Sikhs should not be perturbed over his settlement with Mr. Jinnah for he is settling only for himself and not committing anybody else. This position itself is contrary to the promise given by the Congress to the Sikhs in 1929. The Sikhs were assured then that the Congress would be party to no settlement which does not give full satisfaction to the Sikhs. The resolution, which was passed in the open session, was drafted by Mahatma Gandhi in my presence. Is Mahatma Gandhi personally bound by no resolution of the Congress? Mahatma Gandhi is personally bound by the resolution. He was the person who made a settlement with the Sikh representatives in terms of the resolution which was drafted by mutual agreement.

"In reply to another question, Mahatmaji says that no one should mind his inconsistencies. This is a strange position, especially when it is taken by a gentleman of the Mahatma's position. If his past utterances are no bar to his present activities, his present promises and settlements will certainly be no hindrances to his future change of front. Mahatmaji says that it is his personal settlement with Mr. Jinnah; but in the next sentence he asks the Sikhs to send their objections to the proposal. If the settlement is the Mahatma's personal affair and if nobody else is to be bound or effected by it, why should the Sikhs send their objections to Mahatmaji. Mahatmaji, with the mentality exhibited by Mr. Jinnah, says for the Sikhs: 'If they find an evident flaw in it, I shall correct it and so. I am sure, will the Qaid-e-Azam, if he is satisfied that there is a flaw'. Mark the word "evident"! The attitude disclosed in the above sentence is common to all the supporters of the Gandhi-Raja formula. They take the formula as a settled thing which can only be modified if the aggrieved parties convince the two great men of their case. Let me, therefore state it unequivocally that I do not take the two great leaders' word as the last word. I shall fight at every step, by every means and on every front against this attack on the Sikh community.

"Our Bravery Will Not Shake Off Our Slavery"

"Mahatmaji says: 'Brave people are never frightened by boggys'. Does Mahatmaji mean that nothing will come out of his offer or does he mean that the Sikhs should go to sleep till their slavery is established? Let everybody understand that my fear is that the proposed Pakistan and Hindustan are sought to be established under British protection in which case we shall be utterly helpless and our bravery will not shake off our slavery just as it cannot at present.

Sikhs, The Main Party Concerned

"My view is that you cannot force an individual or a community to remain in India against his or her will but no individual or community has any right to take away an inch of the national land with him. I admit that, besides the Sikhs, there are others also who are a party to it and whose opinion counts. But, in the question of cutting off the Punjab or a portion of it from India, I claim that the Sikhs are the main party concerned. In Pakistan the Punjab Hindus will suffer no more than Muslims in the Hindustan. It will be the Sikhs who will be divided in two equal parts; one will be in Pakistan and the other in Hindustan—both under the domination of Muslims and Hindus respectively. Their status, thus, ends.

"The Gandhi-Rajaji cuts us at the loin, reducing each part to permanent slavery. We had been living as a buffer state between Hindus and Muslims under the English till the so-called Communal Award deprived us of that position. We have since then been groaning under repression and tyranny of various kinds but the rule in the Punjab is backed by the powerful British nation.

Our Position Worse Than Ever Before

"We will agree to a settlement only if this position of ours be re-established. We do not wish to be under the domination of Hindus or Muslims nor shall we agree to leaving even a small portion of Sikhs unprotected and uncared for. The new formula makes our position far worse—and permanently so—than even our present position. The Azad Punjab scheme is the correct solution. But since it comes into conflict with the Raja-Gandhi formula, it has been brushed aside and we are asked to state our objections or put our demands. If an offer could be made to Mr. Jinnah, without his even asking for it, why cannot the same be done in the case of Sikhs? Is it because we are considered to be weak?

"I be prepared to place my case before the two leaders but it is no use unless it is clearly stated by two great leaders that the present offer of Mr. Gandhi to Mr. Jinnah can be fundamentally and substantially modified with a view to accommodating the Sikhs.

"Those who have now begun to support the present offer of Mr. Gandhi to Mr. Jinnah say that nobody can force a minority to stay in India, if it insists upon going out. My reply is: 'If you cannot force a minority to stay in India, how can you force another minority to go out of India. If physical force is the main consideration in deciding such grave issues, you will soon find the country in chaos.'—A.P.I.

SIKH COMMUNITY CUT IN TWO

Master Tara Singh On C.R. Formula

AMRITSAR, Aug. 10.—Master Tara Singh writes:—

"Gandhi-Jinnah coalition cuts the Sikh community in two equal parts and then Mr. Jinnah asks the Sikhs to send their position to himself and Mr. Gandhi, the two arbiters of our fate. Our demand of Azad Punjab is known to everybody. Is it not infinitely more definite and clear than the Pakistan of Mr. Jinnah? Yet Mr. Jinnah never sent his demand to the Congress. Why does he wish to meet us different treatment? Mr. Gandhi sent him an offer, without Mr. Jinnah having asked for it even. Can Mr. Jinnah not do the same thing to the Sikhs as he himself insisted upon and secured? Let Mr. Jinnah make an offer, and like Mr. Gandhi, stating clearly that so far as the Punjab is concerned, his Pakistan can be fundamentally and substantially modified in view of the demand of the Sikhs. If he does so, there will be ground for discussion, but if he insists upon Pakistan, as offered to him by Mr. Gandhi, there is not much use of any discussion. I have noted with care that Mr. Jinnah did not say that he and Mr. Gandhi will be prepared to discuss the question of protection of the Sikhs with them. He simply invites our demands in writing.

"I may state here for the information of the public that I have written a letter to Mr. Gandhi which I do not give to the press at present for fear of premature comment. I shall disclose its subject matter as soon as I receive a reply or in the Panthic gathering of the 20th instant."

SIR MANOHAR LAL GIVES FULL SUPPORT

Movement To Organise Opposition To "C. R." Formula

From Our Special Representative

LAHORE Aug. 10.—Sir Manohar Lal, Finance Minister, Punjab, has extended his full support to the movement for organising Hindu opposition to the C. R. formula in the province. In reply to the joint telegraphic invitation sent to him by Goswami Ganesh Dutt, General Secretary, Sanatan Dharam Pratinidhi Sabha, Punjab, Mahashay Krishna, General Secretary, Arya Pratinidhi Sabha Punjab, Mr. Brij Lal, Secretary, Hindu Vigilance Board, Punjab and Mr. Keshab Chander, General Secretary, All-India Hindu Mahasabha, Sir Manohar Lal has in a telegram sent to Mahashay Krishna, which has been released to the press by the conveners, expressed entire agreement with the conveners. Sir Manohar Lal in his telegram says: "I am in entire and whole-hearted agreement with you regarding the effect of Rajaji's proposals. They should be opposed with all possible strength."

Sir Manohar Lal has, however, regretted his inability to come to attend the conference which is to be held in Lahore on August 13.

FLOODS IN HAZARA DISTRICT

Considerable Damage Reported

(From Our Own Correspondent)

ABBOTTABAD, Aug. 10.—Reports of considerable damage caused by floods in the streams of Haro, Dour and Saran, flowing through the different parts of the Hazara district, have been received here. The Ranella bund, which is responsible in irrigating almost all the lands of Haripur town and central portion of the Haripur tehsil, has been entirely washed away, culminating in damage to the standing crops and the masonry works on the banks of the spring responsible for the entire water supply of the town was tampered with, resulting great hardships to the residents. It was after a day or so that arrangements for water supply were resumed. A number of flour mills operating on the banks of the various streams all over the district have been carried away, causing the already delicate food situation in the Hazara district. The portion of the railway line near Usman Khattar was also damaged as a result of which trains bound for Havelian were considerable delayed. The mail was carried by buses and delivered at Abbottabad and Haripur after couple of days. Vehicular traffic on the Torbela Ghazi and Darband roads has been suspended. Steps are being taken to effect immediate repair to the Ranella bund.

ONE MONTH'S STOCK ONLY

Bombay Government To Ordinance

(From Our Correspondent)

BOMBAY, Aug. 12.—The Government has been contemplating to promulgate an Ordinance banning residents from stocking food grains for more than one month. Each adult is allowed four pailies of grains and children under 12 two pailies per week. Under the contemplated new measure, one adult resident should not stock more than 16 pailies a month without special permit or licence from the authorities.

Bombay Government are anxious to prevent overstocking by the well-to-do who buy and stock grains from the black market which is reported to be still flourishing in spite of the steps taken. They might be compelled to resort to the above step due to the difficulty of obtaining stocks. It will be remembered that the Bombay Province is facing a shortage of nearly 150,000 tons and stocks in the city would last only upto the end of October when the new crops are awaited. The final decision regarding the Ordinance is expected to be taken within the next 24 hours. Government at the moment are in consultation with the local Food Council about this. The Order when issued will cover only foodgrains like rice, wheat, bairi, jowar. Sugar has been exempted from this list.

PUNJAB CONGRESS SUSPENDS FOURTEEN COMMUNISTS

Lahore's Rousing Welcome To Maulana Azad

LAHORE, Oct. 2.

THE decision to suspend from today 14 members of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee for violating the August Resolution, was taken at a meeting of the Working Committee of the Punjab Congress.

The Congress President, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, was present throughout the deliberations and addressed the members on various important questions.

These 14 members among whom are several Communists, have been served with 15 days' notice and debarred from further attending the meeting of the P.P.C.C. and its Working Committee. They have been asked to show cause within this period why disciplinary action should not be taken against them for acting both in spirit and in action against the August Resolution of the Congress.

DISLOYALTY

The notice states these members instead of loyally following the August Resolution of the All-India Congress Committee and faithfully carrying out the Congress instruction deliberately went against the Congress policy and decisions. It further states that until any disciplinary action is taken against them, they are suspended from the membership of the Punjab Congress Committee.

Among these 14 members are Sardar Sohan Singh Joshi, a Communist leader of the Punjab Sardar Mangal Singh, M.L.A. (Central, an Akali leader), Nawabzada Mahmud Ali, Syed Matlabi, Thakur Hazara Singh, Mr. Fazal Ilahi Qurban, Mr. Mange Ram Vats, and Mr. Karam Singh Mann.

The Working Committee elected Pandit Neki Ram Sharma as President of today's meeting in the absence of Mian Iftikharuddin who has resigned from the Congress.

Among those who attended the meeting were Maulana Daood Ghaznavi, Seth Sohanlal, M.L.A., Sardar Sampuran Singh, Sardar Pratap Singh, M.L.A. and Sardar Gopal Singh Qaumi.

RECEPTION TO PRESIDENT

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was given an enthusiastic reception on his arrival in Lahore this morning.

Several hundred Congress volunteers—men and women, boys and girls—wearing national tricolour arm bands and carrying flags and banners gave a rousing welcome to the Congress President as he reached his hotel from the RAF aerodrome where his plane landed at 9-30 a.m., after a two-hour flight from Delhi.

Flowers were showered on the President as his car passed through the rows of volunteers who provided the guard of honour.

At the aerodrome Maulana Azad was received by several Congress leaders and was greeted by the Commanding Officer of the RAF station, Wing-Commander Fallick, who had issued the necessary permits for entry to the airfield. The president warmly shook hands with him.

The Congress President, though looking tired, had a comfortable journey. Accompanied by Maulana Daood Ghaznavi, the Punjab Congress leader, and Diwan Chaman Lal, M.L.A., Maulana Azad drove in a car to the hotel followed by other cars.

"DARSHAN" SEEKERS

A large crowd collected in front of the Hotel suite of the Congress President shouting Congress slogans and clamoured for the "darshan" of the President.

The Maulana came out in the corridor and in a very brief speech thanked the people for the welcome accorded him. He said: "Every fibre of my heart is grateful to you for this warm welcome. I am still in weak health but I had to come to the Punjab inspite of ill health to set certain matters right. I would therefore seek your help and co-operation in letting me finish my work here in quiet and as early as possible. For this I would be thankful to you."

BUSY DAY

The Congress President spent a very busy day today giving interviews to a number of persons and attending the deliberations of the Working Committee of the Punjab Congress Committee.

Among those who interviewed President Azad today were Sardar Baldev Singh, Punjab Minister, Maulana Habibur Rahman, the Ahrar leader, Maulana Moh Naeem, Secretary of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema Hind, Meuti Ziaul Hasan, President of the Punjab Muslim Majlis, Lala Bhimsen Sachar, leader of the opposition in the Punjab Assembly and Agha Surash Kashmiri, an Ahrar leader.

A batch of young nationalist Muslims also met the Congress President.—AP.

NO SUBMITTING TO RED HOOLIGANISM

Free Press Bharat Jyoti ——— 14.10.45

Pattabhi Orders Congress Volunteers To Carry Lathis

ELLORE, October 12.

INSTRUCTIONS to Congress volunteers to carry lathis to defend themselves against Communists, if an occasion arose, were issued by Dr. Pattabhi Seetharamayya, member of the Congress Working Committee, after his release from jail. This was revealed by him at a public meeting held at Dundugolanu.

UNFAIR ADVANTAGE

Dr. Pattabhi said that after his release he took stock of the situation and found that everywhere Communists were taking advantage of the Congress policy of non-violence. He, therefore, gave instructions to Congressmen that non-violence was a weapon designed to be used against the British to wrest the country's freedom and that they (Congress Volunteers) should also carry lathis and should not shirk from protecting themselves from violence if an occasion arose. After that the violent attacks from Communists abated in frequency.

RUSSIA NOT OUR GOAL

Dr. Pattabhi Seetharamayya, exhorted the people to clearly inform the Communists that they would have nothing to do with a Swaraj established through rivers of blood like the one established in Russia, and that they would only have a Swaraj established through peaceful and legitimate means under the Leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

THE BLACK RECORD

Dr. Pattabhi Seetharamayya said that from the beginning Communists opposed the Congress programme from time to time, though professing to follow the same. In 1939 when Congress was carrying on negotiations with the Government, Communists urged that the Congress should start a fight. When in 1940 Gandhiji started a fight by launching individual Civil Disobedience, the Communists criticised the same, stating that only a mass struggle would meet the situation. Again in 1942 when the whole nation was in the throes of a rebellion to shake off the British domination the Communists turned round and called the war a 'Peoples War' and gave an undertaking to the Government, to support the war effort. The Government also took advantage of the situation by releasing all Communists from jail, while clapping all Congressmen in. Thus fortified by Government's help in more than one shape, the Communists went among the people and tried to gain popularity by professing that they were also Congressmen and were only following the Congress programme. Wherever and whenever necessary they tried to carry their message through the medium of the lathis.—A.P.

SWAMI SAHAJANAND SARASWATI

Hindustan Standard

REJOINS CONGRESS

7-10-46

BOUNDEN DUTY OF ALL PATRIOTS

PATNA, OCT. 5.—Swami Sahajanand Saraswati, President, Bihar Provincial Kishan Sabha, has rejoined the Indian National Congress. He has enrolled himself as a four-anna member of the organisation.

In this connection he says in a statement: "Without entering into past controversies, I may safely assert that the Congress has undoubtedly gained much in momentum, popularity and strength as a result of immense sacrifices during past years. But forces arrayed against it and barring the country's progress towards indenendence too have gained considerably in power and prestige. They have consequently thrown an open challenge to all nationalist forces represented in the form of the Congress. There is a conspiracy and an unholy alliance to drag forcibly down the Congress from its high pedestal and to finish it as a symbol of India's revolt against thraldom and the will to become free. It is as clear as daylight. In the circumstances it is the bounden duty of all freedom-loving elements in the country to rally round the Congress and render it invincible.

"While not budging an inch from the position that the Kisan Sabha must ever remain entirely and independent class organisation of Kisans fighting for their cause, we have always maintained that in national and international matters Congress is the only authoritative organ of Indian opinion. Hence it should be strengthened in its position and in no case should it be weakened especially during these critical days for our fight for freedom."—U. P. I.

Communists Started The Civil War

19-10-48 — The Hindu

DR. PATTABHI ON JOSHI'S STATEMENT

MASULIPATAM, Oct. 13.

"When the Congress is charged with heading for civil war, one can only recall the hundred and one incidents of civil war already inaugurated by the Communists in Andhra Desa. Of course, it is wise strategy to attribute to your opponents the trends which you have already dictated by your own policy."

Thus observed Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, member of the Congress Working Committee, in an interview to the "United Press of India" on the latest statement of Mr. P. C. Joshi, Secretary of the Communist Party of India, calling upon the Communists to resign from the Congress.

Dr. Pattabhi added: "I have just read Mr. Joshi's statement. I have not chosen so far to cross swords with the Communists. But this statement of Mr. Joshi requires careful examination. It is anticipating events and preparing to guard against them. Judicially this does not seem to be quite in order. Any decision may be taken but it is only fair to wait for the final judgment of the Congress Working Committee. It is not necessary to go into details but when the Congress is charged with heading for civil war, one can only recall the hundred and one incidents of civil war already inaugurated by the Communists in Andhra Desa. Of course, it is a wise strategy to attribute to your opponents the trends which you have already dictated by your own policy."

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

Replying to a question whether it was a fact that only those Congressmen who took part in the 1942 struggle would be nominated by the Congress Parliamentary Board as candidate for election to the Central and Provincial Legislature, Dr. Pattabhi said: "This question has been repeatedly put to the Congress leaders in different provinces. It only shows the nervousness of those who who have not participated in the last movement. But I suppose people have noted what Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel said at the A.I.C.C. meeting in Bombay. Rules controlling candidature are laid down by Government and the Congress must be expected to take take into consideration the totality of circumstances in each case. No institution can work on hard and fast rules. Conventions grow and they have their own origin".

STANDING FOR ELECTION?

Replying to another question whether he was standing for election to the Madras Legislative Assembly, Dr. Pattabhi said: "My prejudices and predilections are well-known, at least I am vain enough to think so. My first love is the constructive programme and the States people. India cannot progress with a limb paralysed and an undivided India making all-round progress is much better than a partial India taking a few more leaps in advance. Moreover, provincial elections are still very distant and members of the Congress Working Committee have to observe certain discipline. They are not their own masters."

"If the High Command presses you, will you agree to stand for the Provincial Assembly?" was the next question, to which Dr. Pattabhi smilingly retorted: "It raises a hypothetical question which is very near akin to the question whether I shall abandon my first love if a sufficiently attractive match is forthcoming."

P. C. Joshi Promises Good Conduct!

Free Press 15-10-45

COMMUNIST PARTY'S ELECTION SCHEME

BOMBAY, Friday.

Mr. P. C. Joshi. General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, has today issued a statement announcing the election programme and policy of the Communist Party of India.

The Communist Party will not "fight and blame" other parties or glorify itself; but Mr. Joshi promises to present a programme which will guarantee freedom, food and jobs for all, land to the peasants, basic living wage to the workers and justice to the untouchables.

The Party will contest almost all rural and labour seats. It will support League candidates in seats reserved for Muslims. And in general constituencies, excepting those special seats for scheduled castes, (strangely enough) the Party will support the Congress.

Anyway, Mr. Joshi assures, the Party "will not campaign for notorious hoarders or hated enemies of the people."

Election Policy Of Communists

Times —13-10-45

"PRACTICAL PLAN FOR FREEDOM"

Mr. P. C. Joshi, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India in a statement outlining the Communists' election programme and policy; says that the party will contest the elections not to expose the Congress or the League and glorify themselves, but to place a practical programme which would guarantee freedom, food and jobs for all, land to the peasants, basic living wage to workers and justice to the untouchables,—a programme which could unite all freedom-loving Indians.

"Both the Congress and the League view the elections" he adds, "as an alternative to mutual agreement. We will warn our people that this is an illusion and that if the major Indian parties do not agree on certain common principles on which the constitution of a free India should be based, we will have an imposed British award This would be division of India "a la" Coupland, a Hindu India led by the Congress, a Muslim India led by the League and a Princely India led by the white suzerain, which would mean not freedom but modified slavery."

The Communist Party would demand that the future constitution-making body be based on two principles, Universal Adult Suffrage and Sovereign Constituent Assemblies for each national area such as Pathanland Sind, Baluchistan, Western Muslim Punjab, Sikh homelands of Central Punjab, Hindustan, Bihar, Rajasthan, Assam, Orissa, Andhra, Tamiland, Kerala, Karnatak, Maharashtra, Gujerat and Bengal. In the case of Bengal a prior plebiscite to be held of both Hindu and Muslim areas to decide whether the unity of their homeland should be kept or split.

The delegates to the constitution-making body should be elected by these sovereign constituent assemblies.

The Party would demand freedom to States subjects by application of the principles of self-determination and adult suffrage.

KISAN SABHA TO PRESERVE ITS IDENTITY

Free Press ——— 26-9-45

Decisions At Meetings Of Congressmen

BOMBAY, Tuesday.

While the waves of mass enthusiasm that overtook Bombay during the three-day A.-I.C.C. session are gradually dying down, some solid business is being transacted by Congressmen meeting informally in the City. Important decisions to preserve the organisational identity of the All-India Kisan Sabha and the All-India Students' Congress, while closely implementing the political lead of the Indian National Congress, have already been taken. Some more decisions in connection with the revival of the Congress Socialist Party, and the continuance of the All-India Forward Bloc are in the offing.'

KISAN MEETING

For the last two days, discussions have been going on among prominent Kisan workers from all over India, including Babu Purushottamdas Tandon, Speaker, U. P. Assembly, Babu Sampurnanand, former Minister, U.P., Acharya Narendra Deo, Capt. Awadesh Pratap Singh and others. Prof. N. G. Ranga maintained that the Kisan organisation should be an integral part of the Congress.

But a large number of workers, including Tandon, Sampurnanand and Acharya Narendra Deo favoured the idea of an independent identity, which, however, should closely follow the political lead of the Congress. Their argument was that a conflict within the Congress with the Zamindar elements could be avoided by having this independence of action in the problems of Kisans. The plea of Prof. Humayun Kabir was that the Krishok Proja Party which was doing considerable work among the peasantry of Bengal should be allowed to function as if it was an official wing of the Kisan Sabha.

As a result of lengthy discussions, a Committee of 14 members, including Purshottamdas Tandon, Babu Sampurnanand, Acharya Narendra Deo, Swami Sahajanand Saraswati and Indulal Yagnik, with Syt. Algurai Shastri as convenor was appointed at yesterday's informal conference. The Committee will direct the activities of the Kisan Sabhas in different provinces and will explore the possibility of having an All-India Kisan Sabha Convention.

SOCIALISTS

Prominent elements in the Congress Socialist Party once again discussed the question of the revival of the party within the Congress. One group was in favour of the dissolution of the party, especially in view of the complete unity of purpose achieved after the 1942 movement. It was provisionally decided, however, that until the ban on the party was lifted and all the workers were set free, the question of revival or dissolution should be postponed.

FORWARD BLOC

The Forward Bloc also held extensive discussions over the issue of dissolution of the Bloc. It was argued that the Bloc was founded on the difference of opinion with the Congress High Command in relation to the launching of a mass movement in 1939, and therefore the Bloc had now no special purpose to serve. But he release of Syt. Sarat Chandra Bose has spread optimism in the Forward Bloc circles and it appears to be the general view that no decisions should be taken till after the release of all the members of the Bloc.

STUDENTS' CONGRESS

Th Working Committee of the All-India Students' Congress also met yesterday and decided to retain the separate identity of the Students' Congress, closely following the political lead of the National Congress. Several resolutions on the lines of those passed at the A.I.C.C. session were adopted by the Committee.

17.10.46 THE BOMBAY CHRONICL

ONLY CONGRESS RECOGNISED LABOUR ORGANISATION IN CITY

Rastriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh Formed: Office-Bearers And Executive

Mr. S. K. Patil, President of the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh, Provincial Board, has issued the following press statement in regard to labour organisation in Bombay:

The Bombay Provincial Congress Committee has already given its fullest support to the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh by unanimously adopting a resolution that hereafter all labour work in the City under the Congress auspices will have to be carried on strictly in accordance with the principles and policy of the Sangh and the B.P.C.C. would not support any labour activity in the City not approved of by the Sangh. In future the Sangh alone will have a right to advice and guide labour in this City on behalf of the Congress.

OBJECT OF CONGRESS

The Provincial Board of the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh has now decided to take up the work of labour organisation by putting into it all its might and organising capacity. We shall directly contact workers wherever they may be and organise them into various trade unions which will be affiliated to the All-India Trade Union Congress.

It is hardly necessary to say that we intend no disruption and no disunity in labour.

Ours is an attempt to help labour our do its own job in an efficient and responsible manner.

Textile labour in Bombay is about half the total labour strength. We have a little under quarter of a million textile workers in the City. A very large majority of them is still outside trade-union movement because no systematic and sustained effort has been made to bring them into unions. There are already two unions for textile labour which are guided by responsible Congressmen and which have now undertaken to accept the guidance of the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh.

UNITED MOVE & ON RIGHT LINES

One of them is Rastriya Kirni Kamgar Sangh which has been in the field for a number of years moulding the textile labour on right lines. The other is the Bombay Mill Mazdoor Sangh which was started last year and which has attracted towards it a large number of textile workers by its vigorous drive. Both these Unions have now pledged themselves to carry on their trade union activities in accordance with the principles and general guidance of the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh.

They have resolved to amalgamate themselves into one Union which will hereafter be called "Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh."

This will be the only Union hereafter which will work in the Bombay textile labour field with the recognition of Congress and under the guidance of the Sangh.

OFFICE-BEARERS

The following will be the office-bearers of the amalgated Rastriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh:

President: Shri S. K. Patil.

Vice-President: Shri V. B. Korgaonker.

Secretaries: Messrs. G. D. Ambekar and M. B. Vora.

Treasurers: Messrs. S. G. Athavale and Baburao Gholap.

Hon. Members and Advisers: Messrs. Asoka Mehta, K. L. Borkar Shantilal Shah, K. S. Dharia, C. B. Mahashabde, Umashanker Dixit, & P. K. Savant.

These and the present executive committees of the two Unions will form the Provisional Executive Committee of the Rastriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh. In the beginning of the next year the workers of the Union will elect their own executive in their general meeting.

IMMEDIATE TASK

The immediate task before the Rastriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh will be to frame the demands on behalf of the textile workers and make concentrated efforts for their acceptance. The immediate demands will be:

(1) Increase in wages,

(2) Standardization of wages,

(3) Increase in Dearness Allowance and

(4) Adequate and unconditional Bonus.

The office of the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh Provincial Board, has been located at Jinnah Hall, Congress House, Bombay No. 4 (Telephone: 44800).

The Head Office of the Rastriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh will be at Veer Mahal, Parel Bombay No. 12.

Communists To Resign From Congress

Free Press — 6.1045

JOSHI CLEARS THE DECK FOR A STRAIGHT FIGHT

CONGRESS POLICY LEADING TO CIVIL WAR!

Apologia For August Desertion

BOMBAY, Friday.

Mr. P. C. Joshi, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India is sending detailed directives to all Party units calling on all Communists, except members of the A.-I. C. C. to resign from the Congress.

In a detailed statement explaining the decision in the light of the new attitude taken by the Congress towards the Communists, he says:

"We, Indian Communists, had great hopes that the leaders of the Congress, our foremost patriotic organisation, would rally the whole country behind a democratic plan for realising Indian Freedom in alliance with progressive forces all over the

"We made their release the central plank of our agitation for the last three years but the Congress leadership after release is not doing serious thinking but demonstrating sectarian arrogance. Instead of a plan to win Indian freedom and build Indian democracy they have in the last A.I.C.C. meeting committed the organisation to a course which will only divide and disrupt the freedom forces themselves.

"Their declaration of fight against the Muslim League will only unleash forces of civil war, not forge the future Indian Union. To glorify the strength of the Congress and deny that of the League is to be blind. To demand Self-Determination from the British and to deny it to a section of our own countrymen is plain injustice. We do not think it is good patriotism to seek British intervention in our internal affairs for it will lead not to Indian freedom, but to a British planned imposed constitution.

"The Congress leadership is also raising its arm against our young Party which consistently defended it against Imperialist slanders at home and abroad. While from inside jail they repudiated the August 'struggle' on release they denounced us for not joining it. They refuse to frankly study the last three years and face up to their own self-contradictory lead of August 1942, which led not to National Government but to national humiliation. They want to make our Party the scapegoat. This blind and prejudiced attitude towards us has caused dismay among friends of India abroad. Openly fascist, reactionary and authoritarian trends are raising their heads inside Congress and under cover of anti-Communism carry on factional struggles for control of the Congress machine.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS DENIED

"By seeking to gag our Party by depriving us of elective posts while retaining us as ordinary members the Congress leadership is aping the reactionary bosses of the British Labour Party who issued the 'Black Circular' which prevented the Communists in British Trade Union Congress from holding any elective post. It thus denies democratic rights to a section of the national movement itself.

"The Congress leaders are now directly or indirectly supporting the setting up of rival Trade Unions, Kisan Sabhas, etc., through elements which are open agents of the big profiteers or discredited Kisan and Labour leaders who want to stage a come back with Congress aid.

"We, Indian Communists, consider this anti-League, anti Communist policy of the Congress High Command as direct encouragement to the forces of civil war which will lead to the country's ruin, not to its freedom. We consider it our foremost duty to demarcate ourselves sharply from such a policy.

A.I.C.C. MEMBERS TO REMAIN

"We are, therefore, directing all our Party members to resign from the Congress except the A.I.C.C. members who will remain to answer the 'charges' and face the verdict of the Working Committee as its decision will concern not only the past but the future of our common national movement. In two weeks all documents will be available to the public.

"We are confident that all honest Congressmen will see that thus, in the circumstances is the best course both for the Congress and our party. We will be able to put our policy before Congressmen, the Congress itself will find its feet more naturally.

"By the conscious adoption of such a policy the Congress leadership has shattered the dream of all progressives of seeing the Congress develop as the builder of a United National Front of our people. We are convinced that the only path to our national Independence lies through a National United Front of all popular forces. We will ceaselessly work to build a Congress-League-Communist joint front for Indian freedom.

UNITY CRUSADERS!

"We will work as unity crusaders by explaining the just viewpoint of one to the other and by ourselves exposing the unjust claims of either. Against the disruptors, we shall appeal to the commonsense of the common man.

"Against the slanderers, we shall supply facts.

"Against the prejudiced, we shall pit our ardent patriotism. The greatest argument in favour of our policy will be the growing realisation inside Congress and League that the more they fight each other of us, the firmer will be the grip of British reaction over us all.

THE TIDE WILL TURN

"Today we may be alone in working against the tide but it will turn. What we say today all will see tomorrow through their own experience. We work and shall continue to work for a common front against common slavery and for common freedom. We shall win and not lose, for ours is the cause of all."

INFUSE CONFIDENCE IN MINORITIES

Christian Leader's Appeal To Congress

The Hindu Press 30-10-45

MADRAS, Oct. 28.

The Congress could infuse confidense in the Indian Christian community and could draw it close to it, if only the Congress leaders have a correct vision of the communal problem, said Dr. V. K. John, President, Federation of Indian Christians, in a statement to the press.

Dr. John expressed disappointment at the fact that no Indian Christian was set up as a Congress candidate for election to the Central Assembly in the Madras Presidency or in any other part of the country, although Indian Christians belonging to the Congress could be available for the purpose.

SEATS FOR CHRISTIANS

Dr. John says, "I requested the Congress leaders to put up an Indian Christian to the Central Assembly and wrote to the Congress President and Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel and others. Mr. Patel appreciated the reasonableness of my request and wrote to me that in the Central Assembly elections I am trying to see if I can accommodate any Christian candidate on the Congress ticket. I made also a request that Indian Christian candidates may be set up for election to the Assemblies in the North-West Frontier Province, Sind and Central Provinces, where no seats are reserved for Indian Christians.

Dr. John adds: It is for the Congress leaders to infuse confidence in the minorities and to have the vision that the Congress cannot claim to be a national organisation, when the Muslims, the Scheduled Castes, Indian Christians and other minorities get out of that organisation, whether the process of getting out is slow or quick. I take it that it is not in the mind of anybody that minorities can be suppressed [illegible] power is transferred to the majority and what is required is to [illegible] confidence in the minorities.

ANXIOUS TO FIGHT

He adds: Indian Christians are anxious to stand side by side with other nationalist elements and fight for the freedom of the country, but they should be satisfied that the successful result of that fight should not end in slavery for any section of Indians, much less for a section which has rendered more than any other section great services in the field of education and other philanthropic efforts."—AP.

FORWARD BLOC POLICY CLARIFIED: PARTY WITHIN CONGRESS

WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT TO AUGUST RESOLUTION: LEADERS' MEMORIAL TO INDIA GOVT.

Hindustan Standard 7-9-45

(From Our Own Correspondent)

JUBBULPORE.—Although the global war is now over and the Allies are busy liberating prisoners of war, it seems to be an irony of fate that numerous Indian patriots are still literally rotting behind the prison bars throughout the country.

The number of such political prisoners, including 18 security prisoners, is well-nigh over 150 in the Central Provinces. One does not know when these detenus and other political prisoners will be released by the Central and the Provincial Governments.

People say that the conditions, which, in the opinion of the Government were necessary for keeping these patriots in jail, do not now exist and therefore the detention of these prisoners is quite unjustified and that they should be set at liberty at once.

MEMORIAL TO DELHI

In this connection, it would not be out of place to mention that some time ago, Mr. H. V. Kamath, formerly of the Indian Civil Service, and General Secretary of the All-India Forward Bloc, who is at present detained in the special jail, Seoni (C. P.) with some other office-bearers and members of the Working Committee of the All-India Forward Bloc, made a representation from jail to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, New Delhi.

In this representation, Mr. Kamath and his other colleagues, tried to clarify their policy and stand vis-a-vis towards the war and the Congress.

The copy of this representation has now been made available to me through the security prisoners of Mahakosal, who were with Mr. Ka nath and his other colleagues in the S oni Jail, and who have since been released.

The representation made to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, by Mr. H. V. Kamath is signed by Mr. H. S. Ruikar; Mr. V. V Subedar, M.L.A; Dr. S G. Patwardhan; Dr. Bhojraj and Mr. Satya Narayan Bajaj.

TEXT OF MEMORIAL

The representation reads :

"We, the undersigned, were the office-bearers or members of the Working Committee of the All-India Forward Bloc at the time the organisation was declared unlawful on June 22, 1942. We have had the opportunity of reviewing the political events that have occurred in the country since that date, and as a result of these deliberations, we have reached at certain conclusions on our individual responsibility. The conclusions, which we formulate hereunder represent our personal views regarding the political problem which is today facing the country. We are, however confident if the members of the Working Committee of the All-India Forward Bloc be released with a view to enabling them to meet and discuss the present political situation, our organization will adopt a policy in consonance with that which are outlined below.

CHARGE REPUDIATED

"1. We emphatically repudiate the charge levelled against the All-India Forward Bloc by the Government of India in its Notification dated June 22, 1942, which declaring it an unlawful organization says. 'Persons in the Forward Bloc have had associations with the Governments of the States at war with His Majesty's Government'.

"We contend that no resolution of our organization nor pronouncement or activity of any responsible member of our organization can lend the least support to this indictment. We abide solely by the open decisions arrived at at the various meetings and conferences of the Forward Bloc, and beyond these open declarations of policy and programmes we have no other loyalty or alliance.

ADHESION TO CONGRESS

port to the demand for freedom, the

"2. We declare our whole-hearted support to the August Resolution of the All-India Congress Committee adopted at Bombay on August 7,8, 1942.

"3. We are of the opinion that in view of the present situation mass civil disobedience is inadvisable.

"4. We feel that as a Socialist Party it will be the task of the All-India Forward Bloc to render all possible help to the workers and peasants to organise them in unions for their betterment in their miserable condition and to implement the appropriate items of the Constructive Programme as recently outlined by Mahatma Gandhi.

"5. We realise that national unity amongst the Hindus and Muslims; Sikhs, Scheduled castes and other minority communities is essential for the attainment of political independence, and it will be our endeavour to promote such national unity.

"6. With regard to the question of national defence, the All-India Forward Bloc has, all along, held that the defeat of foreign aggression—Japanese or any other—will be possible only through armed resistance and we see no reason to change this policy of the Forward Bloc. We are, however, convinced that political freedom of India is the most essential prerequisite for successful resistance to foreign aggression.

"7. The All-India Forward Bloc was first formed as a party within the Indian National Congress and has always worked in that capacity within the Congress. In future, too, our organisation will work as a party within the Congress.

CONSULTATION NEEDED

"We, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government of India and the various Provincial Governments to release all the office-bearers and the members of the Working Committee of the All-India Forward Bloc so as to afford them an opportunity of reviewing the entire political situation today.

"Most of our colleagues have been detained in different jails in different Provinces, and it is likely, therefore they are not in a position to express their individual views about the future policy and programme of the Forward Bloc.

"We, in this jail, have been able to discuss the position thoroughly and have conveyed our views to you, and we are convinced that the policy and programme, we have stated above, are not only in the best interest of our Motherland but of the Cause of Freedom and Democracy throughout the whole world."

It is learnt that no reply has yet been received by Mr. H. V. Kamath and his other colleagues from the Government of India.

Mahasabha

Bombay Chronicle 29-10-45

Nominees

Bhopatkar, Paramanand And Narang Among Candidates For Central Assembly

CALCUTTA, Oct. 27 (A. P. I): The All India Hindu Mahasabha has announced today a list of nominees selected by its Parliamentary Board for the Indian Legislative Assembly elections from certain constituencies in the Punjab, United Provinces, Maharashtra, Delhi, Madras, Bombay and C. P. (Marathi) and Berar. Nominations for Bengal and Behar, along with the remaining names from other provinces will be shortly announced.

The candidates nominated include Bhai Paramanand, Dr. Gokulchand Narang and Mr. L. B. Bhopatkar.

The following is the full list released by the Mahasabha:

Punjab: Dr. Gokulchand Narang Rawalpindi (Lahore); Chowdhri Tikka Krishansingh Thappar (Jullundhar Division); Bhai Paramanand (Ambala Division).

U. P.: Mahant Digvijainath (Gorakhpur-Benares), Hinchand Kanayun Arhwal; Rammohan Lal (Seven Cities); Shri Prithvinath Bhargava (Lucknow); Subodhchand Lahiri (Allahabad, Jhansi); Sadayatan Pandy.

Maharashtra: L. B. Bhopatkar (Bombay Central Division) ,Shantappa Ycumalli (Southern Division)

Delhi: Prof. A.M. Singh.

Madras: S. Nagarajah (Nellore).

Bombay: K. H Dhamdhere.

C. P. (Marathi) and Berar: Shree Paranjape; Shree Chatate (General and Landholders constituencies.

Public Resentment Against Communists

3-4-45

B. Chronicle.

BOMBAY, Sunday.

Following a malicious attack on the late Subhas Chandra Bose in the last week's issue of the "People's War" and the clash at the Lalbaug meeting on Friday last, popular resentment in the city against the Communists found expression when members of the Communist Party went about the city hawking the "People's War" to-day.

Since yesterday, wherever the "People's War" and "Lok Yudha" were sold, the vendors were set upon by groups of people, the bundles of the Communist papers snatched from them and destroyed publicly.

Such happenings were reported from one or two places yesterday but since this morning the general atmosphere showed signs of increasing trouble and right from Dhobi Talao to Shivaji Park, Dadar, the Communist vendors had to face greater public resentment and at many places there were clashes. At Byculla, Kandewadi, Girgaum, Shivaji Park, and the Dadar Railway Station there were fights and as much as nearly 20 persons are said to have received injuries. The police have arrested two persons.

PANDIT NEHRU AND THE COMMUNISTS

Mr. P. C. Joshi's Reply

Mr. P. C. Joshi, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, in a statement on Pandit Nehru's remarks about the Communist Party, says: "It is regrettable that in his Press statement of June 23, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has voiced opinions which are neither objective nor would help our common cause. He is reported to have said that the Indian Communists during the crucial 1942 days were 'on the other side.' It is a very serious thing to say indeed. He knows as well as I do what the policy of the other side was, to clamp the leaders in jail, suppress the Congress, slander it as pro-Japanese and deny National Government. He knows enough of our policy even while in jail to understand that on every one of these issues we were against the policy of the other side and resisted and answered it as best we could. Why then bandy words rather than himself go to the root of that contradictory policy that disowns Congress responsibility for struggle before the Viceroy but would put us outside the pale of patriotism for not participating in it? The issue needs harder thinking by Nehru than by us.

"Perhaps Nehru did not realise that by attacking the Communist Party of India as he did he was only helping those who have made anti-Communism their sole concern, just because the Communist Party had the courage to fight sabotage, pro-Japanism and profiteering. Pandit Nehru also did not realise that, by describing the Communist Party policy as dependent on the exigencies of Soviet foreign policy, he was giving expression to imperialist slander about the Soviet and helping those agencies which seek to create anti-Soviet feeling in our land. Anyway, how can the agents of a foreign power grow stronger among their own countrymen?

"On all counts Nehru, whom we all admire, has to think. He knows who in the present day world that is yet in the making raised the banner of anti-Communism and which elements the world over are waving that bankrupt banner to day. Must he help it to plant it in our country as well? We expect him to help to haul it down and we are confident that the more he sees things for himself, the more coolly he thinks, the sooner will that day come."

GOVERNMENT IN NO MOOD TO LIFT BAN ON SOCIALISTS

MUDIE HOLDS THEM RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTS OF SABOTAGE

Hindustan Times 30-8-45

(From Our Correspondent)

AJMER, Aug. 29.—A hint about the Government of India's decision regarding the Congress Socialist Party was given on Sunday at a Press Conference by Sir Francis Mudie, Home Member, Government of India, who was on a short visit to Ajmer. When shown the issue of the "Hindustan Times," containing Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's statement urging the Government of India to lift the ban on the Congress Socialist Party the Home Member expressed himself in strong terms against the Congress Socialists and held them responsible for acts of sabotage during the 1942 disturbances. It appeared from his attitude that the Government of India are now in no mood to lift the ban.

Asked about the future of Ajmer-Merwara, he said that the amalgamation of this province with the U.P. was out of the question, but the amalgamation of the executive, judicial and police services of Ajmer-Merwara with the U.P. services was under consideration and would be brought into force very soon.

The Home Member appreciated the difficulties of young men of Ajmer-Merwara in getting admission to technical colleges in other provinces and said that some arrangement must be made for them.

It was also pointed out to him that the Beawar Municipal Committee had been deprived of the right of having an elected chairman since 1930 when the Committee passed a resolution for hoisting the National Flag over the municipal building.

'SATYARTH PRAKASH' BAN

Earlier, in an interview with Mr Chand Karan Sarda, General Secretary, All-India Hindu Mahasabha and President of the Ajmer Bar Association, the Home Member is reported to have told him that the Government of India had nothing to do with the Sind Government's ban on the *Satyarth Prakash* and it would not interfere in any situation which might arise out of the proposed Satyagraha by the Arya Samaj.

During his two-day stay in Ajmer, Sir Francis Mudie visited Pushkar, the Dargah of Khwaja Saheb and the B.B. and C.I. Railway Workshops.

On Sunday the Home Member was entertained at a tea party by Sir Bhag Chand Soni, M.L.A.

ndu Mahasabha's Protest

EDUCING HINDUS TO MINORITY

M OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ONA, June 24: The Working mittee of the All-India Hindu asabha concluded its session in a this morning, after passing a ord resolution condemning the ell Plan as being a deliberate ce to reduce the Hindu majority position of minority. The resolu- states that even if the scheme ccepted by the Simla Conference would be repudiated by Hindu India el if enforced would be resisted by possible means.

The Mahasabha has called upon branch organisations and Hindus general to observe a protest week rom July 1 to July 7 and to de- clare July 8 as an All India Hartal Day as a mark of Hindu resentment. Dr. S. P. Mookerjee, President of the Hindu Mahasabha, has tele- graphed the resolution to His Excel- lency the Viceroy. In a letter addressed to the Viceroy, Dr. Moo- kerjee says: "I wish to emphasise that Hindus of India intensely feel the injustice that is sought to be done to them behind their back and further the whole scheme is anti- national and undemocratic both in conception and execution, and it will pave the way for destroying com- munal peace and intensifying com- munal bitterness.

The text of the resolution given by the *Associated Press* reads: "The Wavell plan is a deliberate device on the part of the British Government to perpetuate the British rule over India, to camouflage the issue of India's in- dependence, to break the solidarity of the Indian nation, to reduce the Hin- dus who constitute about 75 per cent. of India's population to a minority by the introduction of parity between the Caste Hindus and Muslims, and disparity between the Muslims and Scheduled Castes and to divide the politically minded Hindu community into separate entities as "Caste Hin- dus" and "Scheduled Castes."

In the opinion of the Committee the plan was obviously a step in retro- gression of the Cripps Proposals, and a monstrous extention of the so- called communal award, which has proved to be the fountain-source of all communal bitterness and political strife. It negativated the principles of nationalism, free dom and democracy, for which the second world war was said to be waged.

"NO SUBSTITUTE"

Even a fully Indianised Executive Council under the existing constitu- tion without any collective responsi- bility, with the Viceroy's veto and the over-riding powers of the Secretary of State intact, can be no substitute for a truly national Indian govern- ment, responsible to the people, based on the recognition of India's inde- pendence."

The committee feared that the per- nicious principles, communal, anti- democratic and anti-national, under- lying the interim scheme, will create dangerous precedents, which will ne- cessarily tend to be the basis for In- dia's future constitution. The Secre- tary of State has, indeed, made it abundantly clear that "there can be no question of making the Central Government responsible to the Legis- lature which would at once, in Mus- lim eyes, imply control of united India by the Hindu majority." The scheme is manifestly the culmination of an anti-Hindu policy of the British Government, strengthened by an ut- terly futile and self-destructive policy of Muslim appeasement pursued by the Congress, resulting in its uncon- ditional surrender to British Imperia- lism.

"Further the said plan, though pro- visional in name and now applicable to the Central Government alone will not fail to be utilised by interested parties as a thin end of the wedge to break constitutionally and perma- nently India's unity and solidarity by having its relief in provincial legis- latures and administration."

The Committee says that in view of the fact that the Congress does not itself claim to represent Hindus as such and the Hindu community as such is not represented at the Simla Conference, any decision taken behind the back of the Hindu Mahasabha, which alone is the accredited political organisation of the Hindus, and which has been in the past recognised by the Government itself as a major political organisation, shall not be acceptable to the Hindus of India.

The Committee demands that a re- ferendum be taken on the Wavell Plan and the opinion of the people be ascertained before it is put into ope- ration.

The Committee called upon all its branch organisations and the Hindu community in general to realise the gravity of the dangers that lie ahead of them, to raise their voice of pro- test against the plan and to be pre- pared for any action necessary to com- bat it.

The resolution adds that the British

(*Continued on page 7*).

(*Continued from page 1*)

Government would not have dared to inflict this atrocious blow on the Hindus, but for the secret support accorded by Gandhiji to the Desai- Liaquat Ali Pact, which, according to Gandhiji himself, formed the basis of the Simla Conference.

The Indian National Congress had bartered away the political rights of the Hindus by repeated secret negotia- tions, and by its open failure to defend such rights whenever they were tramp- pled under foot. The Congress had ceased to be a national organisation by its persistent negotiations with the Muslim League, a body outside the Congress—on communal issues and by its latest acceptance, through Gandhi- ji, of an equal political status with an avowedly communal and reactionary organisation like the Muslim League.

LIBERAL FEDERATION URGES ACCEPTANCE

"Co-operation Move"

FROM OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT

POONA, June 24: The acceptance of Lord Wavell's proposals was favoured by the Council of the All India National Liberal Federation at its meeting held in Poona today. Mr. Venkatarama Sastri, presided. The resolution adopted by the Council stated that though some features of the proposals were undesirable, their acceptance was desirable in view of the opportunities they accorded for fruitful co-operation between different parties and between various parties and the Government.

The acceptance of the proposals would help to resolve the present deadlock and remove the sense of frustration in the country. The resolution added: "As the Liberal Party has always set its face against communalism in every shape of form the Council feel that the proposed parity between the Muslims and the Hindus other than Scheduled Castes is based on a principle which may slowly permeate and corrupt political life in every sphere but in view of the fact that such parity already exists in the Central Executive and is only continued as a part of he temporary arrangement during the war and pending the framing of a permanent constitution they accept the proposal and desire to state explicitly that by their acceptance of these proposals they are not to be understood as assenting to communal parity as permanent feature of constitution. The Council regretted that the conference was not adequately representative of organised public opinion. In their view the representatives of other parties particularly the Hindu Mahasabha should have been invited.

BHULABHAI'S VERDICT AGAINST COMMUNISTS

PARTY ACTED AGAINST POLICY OF THE CONGRESS SINCE AUG. '42

Allegations About Conduct Not Substantiated

BOMBAY, Wednesday.

"IT DOES APPEAR that the views and attitude of the Communist Party after 9th August 1942 have been to carry on a propaganda contrary to the views and policies of the Congress."

This conclusion was arrived at by Mr. Bhulabhai Desai to whom Mahatma Gandhi, at the instance of Mr. P.C. Joshi, Leader of the Communist Party, handed over his anti-Communist file for scrutiny and judgment.

The full text of the final instalment of the correspondence between Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. P. C. Joshi together with the verdict of Mr. Desai was released today by the Communist Party here.

In his "opinion." Syt. Bhulabhai lists the various documents, letters etc., received by Gandhiji, containing allegations against the Communists which include letters from Shri Kaleswara Rao of Andhra, Gulzarilal Nanda of Ahmedabad, M. R. Masani, and others.

HONOURABLE

Regarding the accusations made by Kaleswara Rao, that members of the Communist Party were compelled to eat meat, that they advocated sexual anarchy in their speeches, and that they are anti-truth, anti-non-violence and anti-Congress, Syt. Bhulabhai wrote:

"There is no satisfactory ground to support these charges (the first two)....From what I have known or seen of the Bombay Communists, their conduct is a complete refutation of these charges. As far as I am aware their conduct is honourable in these respects....."

RELATIONS WITH C. S. P.

Regarding Masani's allegation that "the Communists as a party wanted to infiltrate themselves into the Congress Socialist Party," Syt. Bhulabhai merely comments that the documents submitted by Masani, "disclose the antipathy of the Congress Socialists towards the Communists and their desire not to allow the Communists join their ranks and overwhelm the Congress Socialist Party."

AGAINST CONGRESS

Finally Shri Bhulabhai on the general Communist policy outlines the difference between Congress and Communists in their attitude to the war and concludes:

"It does appear that the views and attitude of the Communist Party, after 9th August 1942, have been to carry on propaganda contrary to the views and policies of the Congress."

On other documents, Syt. Bhulabhai says that he believes that documents have not been categorically brought to P. C. Joshi's notice nor has he had an opportunity of answering the views in those documents.

CANNOT JUDGE

Mahatma Gandhi in his covering letter to Mr. Joshi writes that news is daily being poured into his ears "that the Party is unscrupulous in its methods and that it even resorts to violence" which makes it difficult for him to accept Syt. Bhulabhai's opinion. But he goes on, "I cannot judge the Party on one-sided evidence. Nor have I the leisure to shoulder the burden of studying the evidence in a manner which would enable me to form an opinion."

Gandhiji concludes by urging Joshi to "consider" the worsening relations "in the light of Congressmen's opinion and do what may appear best to you."

JOSHI'S ANSWER

In his reply to this P. C. Joshi expresses his regret that Mahatmaji had not sent him all the anti-Communist documents referred to by Syt. Bhulabhai in his award and requested him to send these documents to him, offering to "publish them together with our answers." He also says that regarding the news that is almost daily poured "into Gandhiji's ears by Congressmen," he is again prepared to publish all these in the press so as "to let our people judge for themselves."

Mahasabha's Decision

PATNA, September 14: The Hindu Mahasabha has decided to contest all seats in the coming elections on the party issue, it is understood. The provincial Hindu Mahasabha has been asked by Dr. S. P. Mookherjee, to set up parliamentary boards immediately and to issue an election manifesto to the people on the largest possible scale.—*A.P.I.*

CUTTACK, September 14: The Governor of Orissa has today, by a notification in the "Orissa Gazette Extraordinary", dissolved the Orissa Legislative Assembly.—*A.P.I.*

New Peasants' Party In The Offing

Times — 24.9.45

MR. TANDON'S MOVE

Special to "The Times of India"

A move is afoot for the formation of a new all-India peasants' organisation independent of and almost parallel to the All-India Kisan Sabha which, of late, is dominated by the members of the Indian Communist Party. Mr. Purshottamdas Tandon, Speaker of the United Provinces Legislative Assembly, is taking a lead in the matter.

A preliminary meeting attended by some of the prominent Kisan workers from the U. P., N.-W. F. P., Bihar and Bengal was held recently at Allahabad at the invitation of Swami Sahajanand, former President of the All-India Kisan Sabha, when the formation of the new organisation was decided upon.

It may be recalled that Swami Sahajanand, Prof. N. G. Ranga and Mr. Indulal Yagnik, among others, are now no more connected with the All-India Kisan Sabha, of which Mr. Muzaffar Ahmed and Mr. Bankim Mukerjee are the present President and the General Secretary respectively.